Thursday, November 15, 2007 ★★ 8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 340 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

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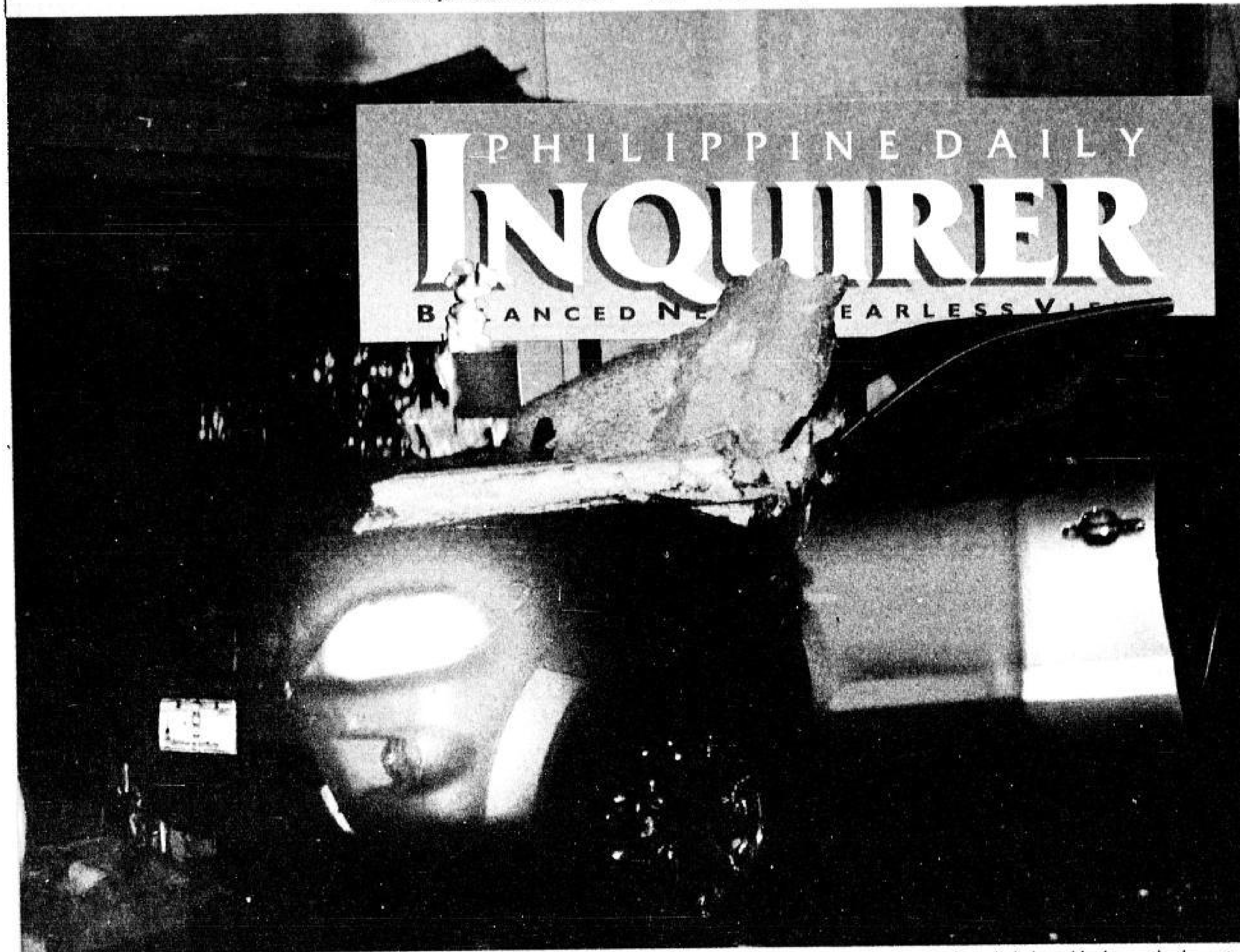


PERFECTO CAMERO CONTRIBUTOR

AFTER THE FIRE. What remains at the disaster site are the flickering embers and the wreckage of a Toyota Fortuner after a bomb exploded outside the south wing entrance of the Batasang Pambansa complex.

Local stocks, peso up; investors ignore blast

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson, Doris Dumlao and Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL STOCKS SURGED AND THE peso strengthened against the dollar yesterday as investors largely ignored Tuesday night's bomb attack that killed a Muslim lawmaker and three others outside the House of Representatives.

Traders said investors appeared to have accepted the police theory that the bombing was directed at a particular individual and was not designed to destabilize the government.

At the same time, traders said investors were encouraged by the

LOCAL STOCKS/ A4

Blast sparks deadly numbers game

By Jerome Aning

MAS NAKA-KATAKOT ANG HAKA-HAKA!

AFTER THE 9/11 terror attacks in New York City and the 10/12 or the Bali bombings in Indonesia on Oct. 12, 2002, comes

BLAST/ A19

PNP: Akbar was target

Batasan staff tell little stories that touch the heart big time

By TJ Burgonio and Christian V. Esguerra

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN JUST ANOTHER day in the office for the 6,000 employees of the House of Representatives—except that they had too many stories of horror to share.

Maan Gale Bustaliño wouldn't be able to share her story.

The usually ebullient chief of staff of Negros Oriental Rep. Henry Teves marked her 30th birthday with her relatives at a health resort at the foot of a mountain in Batangas last Saturday.

Nobody thought it would be her last birthday party.

Bustaliño was among four people killed by a powerful bomb that severely damaged a portion of the Batasan building the other night. Her boss was among those seriously wounded.

The blast initially killed three people. The fourth fatality, Julasiri "Niki" Hayudini,

BATASAN/ A19

FIRST WIFE Jum Akbar (center) inspects the burial ground of her husband in Isabela, Basilan, before the arrival of his body on Wednesday.

JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Basilan politics eyed in bombing

By Alcuin Papa, Inquirer Mindanao and Arlyn dela Cruz, *Contributor*

BY VIRTUE OF HIS "COLOR," BASILAN REP. Wahab Akbar was the likely target of the bomb that exploded on Tuesday night, the Philippine National Police said yesterday.

PNP Director General Avelino Razon said at a press conference that among the lawmakers who were at the exit of the south wing of the House of Representatives on that night, Akbar was the "most colorful."

"We are considering the proximity [of the bomb to its victims]. And from among the group, Representative Akbar had the most color," said Razon, using a police intelligence term. "As far as threats are concerned, he was the most colorful considering what is happening in Basilan."

Akbar, 47, was a former member of the Abu Sayyaf who later turned against the extremist group and helped the government in the campaign against it.

But Razon also said the PNP was considering other angles.

PNP: AKBAR/ A18

GMA offers ₱5M for information on Batasan bombers

By Inquirer Staff

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY offered a P5-million reward for information that could lead police to the perpetrators of the bomb attack at the Batasan Pambansa complex.

Condoling with the families of the victims of Tuesday night's Batasan blast, the President said there were no words to express how deplorable the act was.

"We will not be cowed by those who perpetuated this," Ms Arroyo said in a speech before awardees of the CITI Microentrepreneur of the Year in Malacañang.

GMA OFFERS/ A4

NO.3: Akbar wife Nur-ain joins her fellow widows.

JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER NINDANAO

IN TEARS. The favorite son of Akbar by No. 2 wife and Isabela Mayor Cherrylyn also waits.

JULIE ALIPALA/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Bomb on motorcycle: Used by Abu in attacks

By Kristine L. Alave and Alcuin Papa

THE EXPLOSION OF A BOMB on a motorcycle near the entrance of the south wing of the House of Representatives—with the casualty toll now at four dead and 13 wounded—has brought back memories of past terror attacks in Mindanao.

Lt. Col. Buenaventura Pascual, former chief of the Armed Forces' Public Information Office and current commander of the AFP Civil Military Operations in Metro Manila, said explosives on a motorcycle were

BOMB/ A19

Solon drew portrait of self as rebel with many faces

By Samira Gutoc and Julie Alipala *Inquirer Mindanao* **and Nikko Dizon** *in Manila*

WAHAB AKBAR PAINTED A SELF-PORTRAIT of himself in his first and only privilege speech as a neophyte in Congress last July.

"Throughout my life I was a laborer, I was a driver, I was an operator of heavy equipment, I was a bakery owner, I was a fishpond owner, I was a fish broker, I was a banana broker, I was a cigarette smuggler, I was a coconut harvester, I was a rebel, I was a student of an agricultural school," he said.

"I was an activist against (the late Ferdinand) Marcos, I was a student of Islamic theology, I was a preacher, I was the deputy commander of the MNLF (Moro National Liberation Front)."

Akbar, killed by a bomb on Tuesday night, predictably drew the ire of his political enemies and reverence from his loyalists.

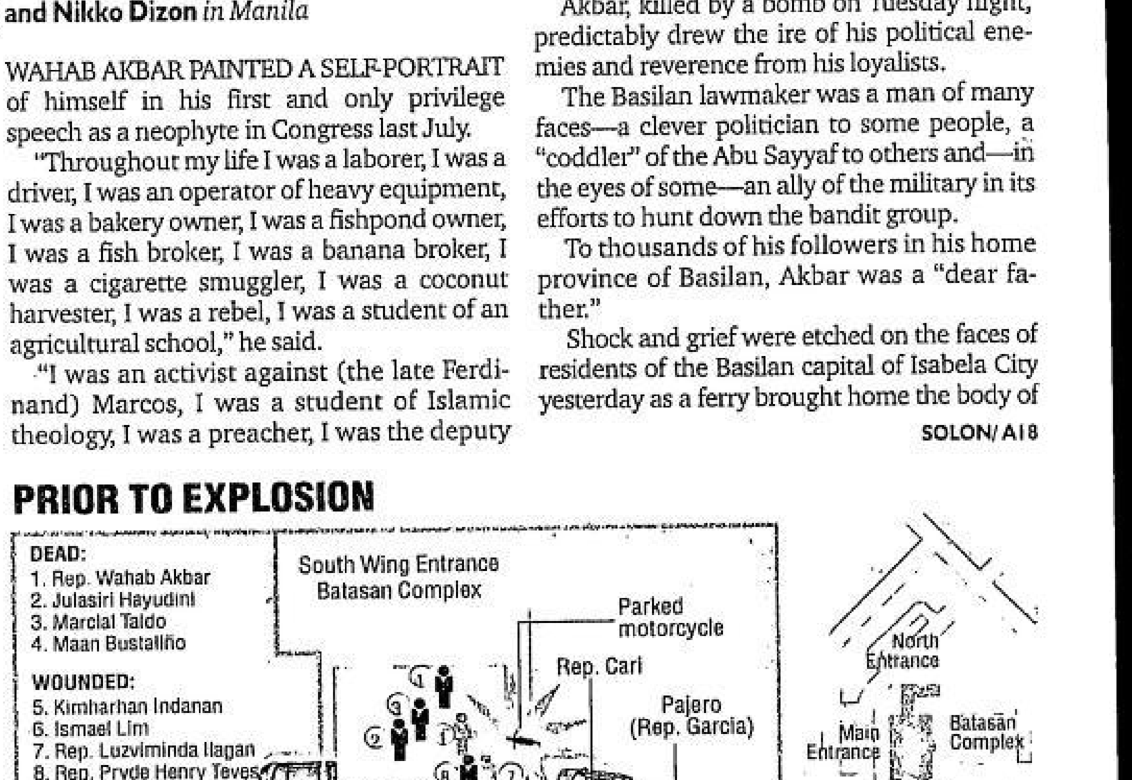
The Basilan lawmaker was a man of many faces—a clever politician to some people, a "coddler" of the Abu Sayyaf to others and—in the eyes of some—an ally of the military in its efforts to hunt down the bandit group.

To thousands of his followers in his home province of Basilan, Akbar was a "dear father."

Shock and grief were etched on the faces of residents of the Basilan capital of Isabela City yesterday as a ferry brought home the body of

SOLON/ A18

PRIOR TO EXPLOSION



DEAD:
1. Rep. Wahab Akbar
2. Julasiri Hayudini
3. Marcial Taldo
4. Maan Bustaliño

WOUNDED:
5. Kimharhan Indanan
6. Ismael Lim
7. Rep. Luzviminda Ilagan
8. Rep. Pryde Henry Teves

OTHER WOUNDED:
9. Larry Noda
10. Mercitas Garcia
11. Patrick Gerald Majete
12. Rodolfo Delente
13. Frederick del Castillo
14. Allan Mangulabnan

SOURCE: PNP SKETCH

INQGRAPHIC : E. SAMB

Fr. Ed testimony raises more questions

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PAMPANGA GOV. ED PANLILIO YESTERDAY told senators that he did not see the P500,000 given to him in Malacañang as a bribe but he doubted whether the money came from President Macapagal-Arroyo's political party or from the governors' group.

"If I would look at bribe as a favor given in exchange of something, I would not say it was a bribe because there were no such connections," Panlilio said at the start of the Senate blue ribbon committee inquiry into the Oct. 11 payoffs in Malacañang.

After the hearing, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, the committee chair, said Panlilio's testimony raised more questions on where the cash gifts came from. He said the committee

FR. ED/ A4

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Northern Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over the Bicol region, which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Metro Manila	Mostly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Mostly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/11/14/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

EZ2 16 26

FOUR DIGIT 9 2 1 0

(In exact order)

Mid-Day **SUERTRES** Evening

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MEGALOTTO 6/45

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Impeachment bid fails anew

Complaint lacks substance, House body rules

By Norman Bordadora

THE DAY AFTER A BOMB BLAST ripped through the House of Representatives, congressional allies dismissed the latest attempt to impeach embattled President Macapagal-Arroyo, effectively ending any threats to unseat her for another year.

The House justice committee, dominated by Arroyo allies and meeting without opposition members, declared the complaint was "insufficient in substance...and is thereby dismissed."

Voting 43 to one, with endorser Laguna Rep. Edgar San Luis as the lone dissenter, the committee took less than an hour to dismiss the complaint filed by lawyer Roel Pulido.

The complaint was the third filed against the President in three years. Under the Constitution, only one impeachment complaint can be filed against an impeachable official each year.

The Pulido complaint centered on allegations of corruption surrounding the contentious $329-million deal for the national broadband network project with the Chinese state firm ZTE Corp. The deal was later scrapped after the public furor over allegations of corruption.

Walkout

The House minority said the Pulido complaint was weak and asked that they be allowed to revise it to strengthen the charges. When the committee leadership refused to grant this last Monday, opposition members walked out of the hearings.

Lakas Rep. Monico Puentevella (Bacolod City), who moved to dismiss the complaint, said he was not in the "right spirit" after the bombing on Tuesday night to listen for another day to arguments that the committee members spent the whole of Monday discussing.

Sorsogon Rep. Jose Solis seconded the Puentevella motion.

After a few minutes of discussion on how to go about the vote and a last-minute request from San Luis to allow a statement from Pulido to be read into the records (it was rejected), the matter was put to a vote.

When asked what is to become of another impeachment complaint filed last Monday by leftist and opposition groups, Quezon City Rep. Matias Defensor, the committee chair, said no impeachment complaint can be filed against Ms Arroyo for at least a year.

Supplemental complaint

Even lawyer Adel Tamano's supplemental complaint that was meant to strengthen the Pulido suit will no longer be heard.

"It's no more. It's too late," Defensor said.

He said a one-third vote of the plenary, or 80 members, would be enough to reverse the committee report dismissing the impeachment complaint. If reversed, the complaint will be transmitted to the Senate and will constitute the articles of impeachment.

But he didn't think it would happen.

"I don't think so. I honestly don't think so," Defensor said.

Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, vice chair of the House committee on justice, delivered the first argument on why the Pulido complaint was bereft of substance.

Palace says it's time to move on

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo is elated that another attempt to unseat her has failed.

"Definitely, the President feels some degree of comfort and satisfaction that the impeachment case did not prosper," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

"I hope that this will be received very well by the general public. Let's allow the President to move on with the business of governance, and I hope that all these other things will not be a distraction," he said.

Ermita called on the political opposition to give Ms Arroyo enough breathing space to finish her programs in the remainder of her term.

In an e-mail message, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said: "With this matter settled, we should move on and focus on issues that matter to our future. Too much preoccupation with politics does not promote stability, continuity, security and order that we need to move Team Philippines forward."

Despite Ms Arroyo's latest victory over her critics, Malacañang does not see an end to what the President has called "political noise."

"Of course, the opposition will not stop at anything until they continue to be heard on the issue of impeachment," Ermita said.

Ermita wondered why the opposition kept on violating the constitutional provision that bans the filing of more than one impeachment case in a year.

"There's a constitutional provision on impeachment that only one impeachment case can be filed against an impeachable official," he said.

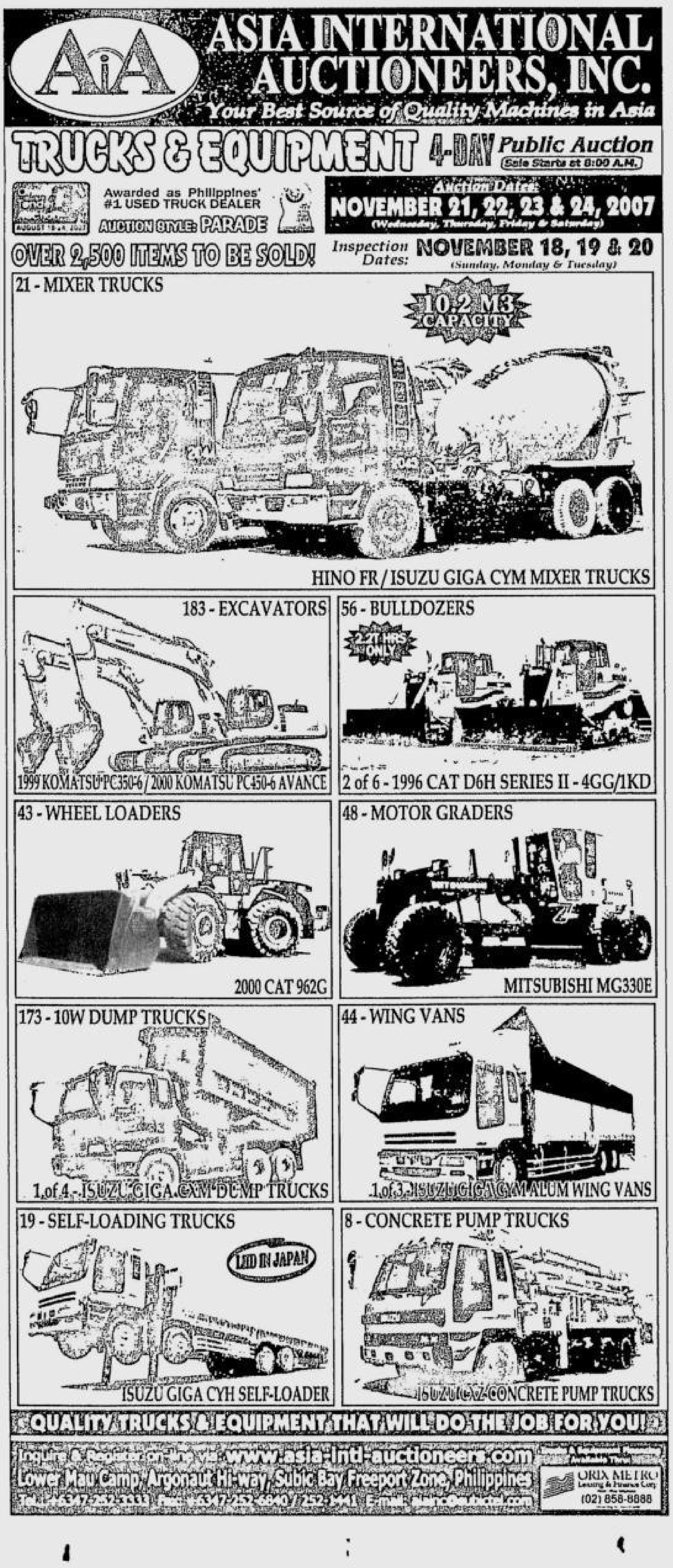
"It's very obvious that they only want to call attention to their cause of trying to throw a curve ball against the President when it's very obvious that all other impeachment cases will not prosper," said Ermita.

Ermita also chided the opposition in the Senate for continuing with its hearings into the allegedly overpriced ZTE Corp. contract for the national broadband network project and the cash payoffs to congressmen and governors to ostensibly kill the impeachment case.

"Why do they continue to conduct hearings in the Senate when they know the very issue for which the hearings are being held are already considered shelved because the President no less ordered the cancellation of the ZTE contract," he said. *Michael Lim Ubac*

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **DISTRUST,** disapproval still high for GMA /A6
- **TUBE TO DRAIN** blood from Saguisag's chest /A6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Search for Yorac awardee is on

THE MANILA ELECTRIC COMPany (Meralco), in cooperation with the University of the Philippines, has launched the nationwide search for the second Gawad Haydee Yorac for Outstanding Public Service. The award recognizes leaders from the private sector, government service and volunteer organizations whose attributes, personal work ethics and service to the nation are worth emulating.

The first Gawad Haydee Yorac Awardee was Antonio P. Meloto, one of the founders of antipoverty and nation-building charismatic movement Gawad Kalinga.

Just like the late Yorac, the awardee must be a role model for public service. Like her, the awardee must have attributes, ethics and life examples that guide his/her daily manifestations of service and leadership. In the process, the awardee consistently carries out his/her commitments and duties, accomplishing deeds that reflect the inner foundation of integrity, courage, selflessness and conscience.

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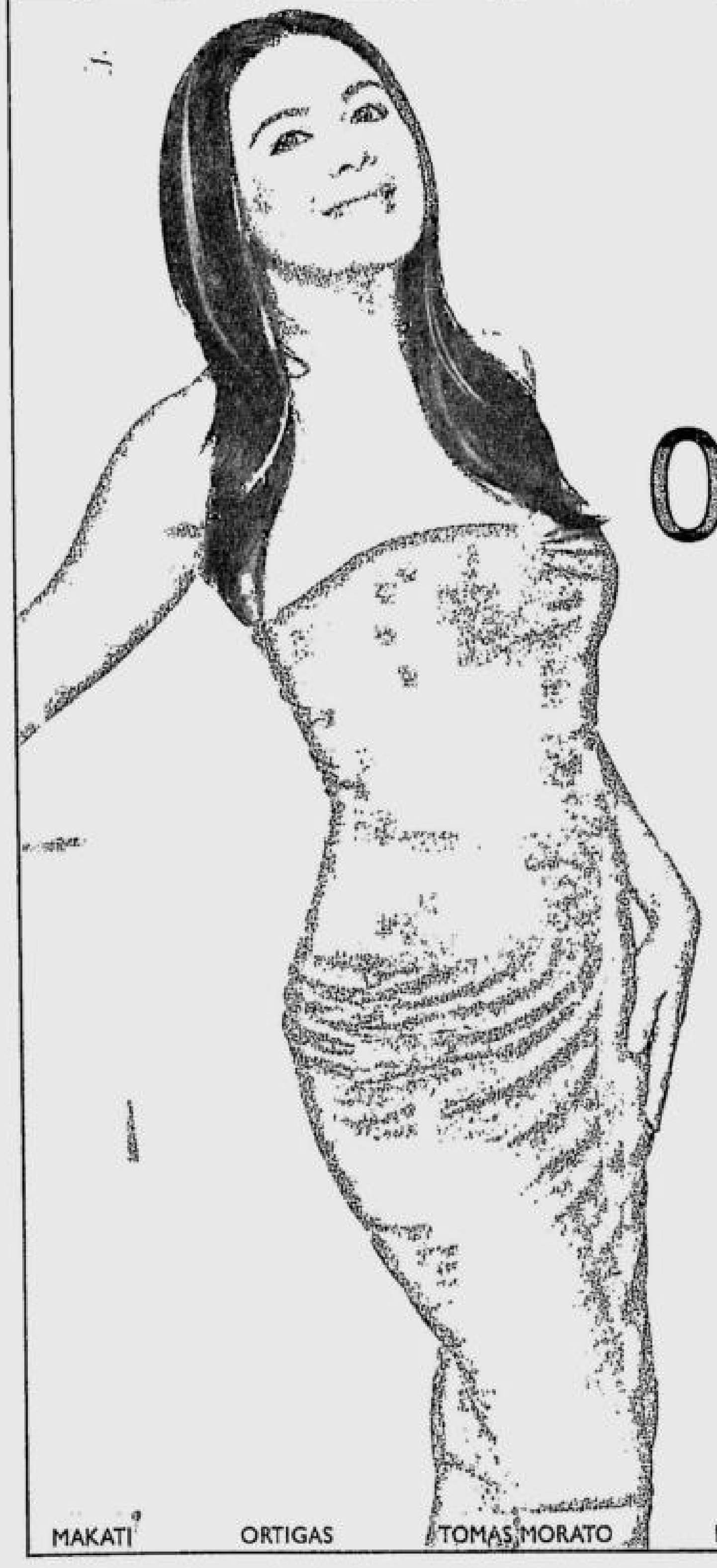

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marie france

Fr. Ed testimony raises more questions

From page A1

was looking into possible violation of laws dealing with bribery.

Cayetano said that in the next hearing on Nov. 21, the panel would pursue the paper trail of the cash gift.

"I would say at this time that the money was not disbursed legally but the bribe at this time I cannot claim that," said Panlilio, who was in his trademark attire—casual jacket, white polo, jeans and leather sandals.

The 53-year-old priest-turned-politician was unflappable in his first major appearance at a public hearing in spite of constant needling from Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile who asked why Panlilio questioned the cash gift a few days after receiving it.

In good faith

"There has been lots of speculation about this money, including where it came from and what it was intended for. I do not have direct knowledge of such source. I believe in good faith that the money was government money intended for barangay projects for Pampanga province," Panlilio said.

The governor said he did not think twice about accepting the funds. "I presumed the papers would be given to me later where the documents would show the actual intentions," he said.

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NG PILIPINAS
SANLIBONG PISO
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FIRST TIME: It's the first public hearing ever for Pampanga Gov. Fr. Ed at the Senate inquiry into the alleged bribery of congressmen and local officials. He's sworn in as the star witness in the scandalous distribution of cash gifts (sample at left) at the Palace. EDWIN BACASMAS

But after a month without proper acknowledgment or legal disbursement papers to prove what the money he got was for, he said: "I would believe there is irregularity to what has happened."

The opposition has said that the cash gifts handed out on Oct. 11 in Malacañang, where Ms Arroyo met separately with 90 congressmen and 200 members and officials of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, were meant as a bribe in the face of a fresh attempt to impeach Ms Arroyo.

Palace disclaimer

The Palace has disclaimed knowledge of the doleouts.

Panlilio said that he neither believed the claim of League of Provinces of the Philippines spokesperson, Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes, that the money came from the LPP kitty for capacity building, nor Rep. Amelita Villarosa's assertion that it was from the President's party Kampi.

"These are two contrary statements coming from LPP which I am told has P21 million. I don't really know where they are coming from. I don't believe (that it came from Kampi) because I am not a member," said Panlilio, who noted he did not notice anyone carrying the same bag, including Mendoza.

Sen. Francis Escudero reminded Panlilio about Presidential Decree No. 46 and the definition of indirect bribery under the Revised Penal Code.

Escudero said: "By reason of your position, if you are given something in cash or in kind, that is already a violation. Also, based on the general appropriations code, the government can only disburse funds through checks from the National Treasury or accredited banks. That it was given in cash, it is automatically a violation."

Asked if the impeachment case was the only item on the agenda of the LPP where the President was seeking a favor, Panlilio said: "Most probably."

Escudero said Malacañang might have declared while there was fund given to Pampanga, it actually gave money only to select governors.

No disbursement

Panlilio wrote Malacañang on Oct. 15 asking to which agency the Pampanga government should issue the receipt for the P500,000 he got. But Gloria M. Bondoc, Malacañang director of finance office, told him that her office had not released or disbursed any amount to his province.

Panlilio said he talked to Bulacan Gov. Joselito Mendoza three days after getting the cash, where he related how he got hold of the money.

Panlilio testified that Mendoza told him that it was handed to him by an unidentified lady in a room in an office in Malacañang where Edward Plaza of Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) and Interior Undersecretary Austere Panadero were present.

Panlilio, who took the cash back for safekeeping after handing it to senators for closer inspection, said he was keeping his options open on what to do with the cash especially if the Senate hearing would confirm that the money was for community funds.

In a quandary

"If it is unclear, I am in a quandary what to do with the money. I hope legislation will clear that up," Panlilio said.

Panlilio said he was invited by the assistant director of the Department of Interior and Local Government in Central Luzon about the meeting of congressmen, governors and mayors of highly urbanized centers with the President in Malacañang only a day before the Oct. 11 affair.

It was during the LPP caucus where Panlilio was approached by Mendoza about a cash gift that he said he would only accept if Panlilio did the same.

Panlilio said he told Mendoza he would reject it if was intended for the barangay elections, which was against his stand against patronage politics, but he would accept it if it would be used for barangay projects.

When asked by Sen. Francis Pangilinan whether he had any hesitation in accepting the fund, Panlilio said: "I had a clear stand of rejecting or accepting it. I won't say I had a second mind."

Surprised

Panlilio said he was surprised when he got the bag of cash, which was handed by Mendoza to his aide when he was inside his vehicle on his way out of Malacañang.

"I thought that was just an exploratory talk, I did not know the funds would be given to me on the same day," Panlilio said.

The governor talked three to four times with Mendoza since Oct. 11, including the night before he gave a press conference confirming the cash gifts. *With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Lawmakers blame lax House security for blast

By Norman Bordadora

THE LAX SECURITY AT THE House of Representatives complex made the Tuesday night bomb attack possible, according to a number of congressmen.

Speaker Jose de Venecia himself cited this shortcoming when he addressed the plenary late yesterday afternoon. "There are many guests who have no business here," he said.

Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez of Parañaque City said the explosion indicated "a failure of security."

"There's a need to tighten our security procedures without making the House inaccessible to the public," said Golez, a former national security adviser.

Biliran Rep. Glenn Chiong, a first-termer, said shopping malls had tighter security.

"The first thing I noticed when I first entered the House complex was the lax security. I noticed metered cabs entering without being thoroughly searched, at least even visually," said Chiong, a member of the majority coalition.

"To put it bluntly, mall entrances have tighter security than the Batasang Pambansa gates," he said.

Rep. Mujiv Hataman of the party-list group Anak Mindanao said it was unnerving to think that congressmen were far from safe even in "an institution of democracy."

Hataman, a minority lawmaker, raised the need to review security measures in the chamber.

First time

Zamboanga del Sur Rep. Antonio Cerilles said it was the first time since the Batasan complex was built in 1970 that such an explosion occurred.

"What happened [Tuesday] night was meant to ... kill as many [people as possible]," he observed.

Said Muntinlupa Rep. Rufino Biazon, a vice chair of the House committee on national defense: "The only reason that the perpetrators of the bombing were able to carry out their plan was the loose implementation of security measures.

"The [inspection of persons entering] the premises is lax. The verification of vehicles entering and parking in the compound is lax. There should be more surveillance cameras covering the premises."

Laguna Rep. Edgar San Luis agreed that just about anyone could enter the complex with ease.

"Of course, this is the House of the people. But there should be some amount of security," he said.

De Venecia said he would form a small group made up of Golez and the chairs of the House committees on defense and on public order that would coordinate with the chamber's sergeant-at-arms and police and military leaders.

"We need to review and tighten security arrangements," the Speaker said.

GMA offers P5M for information on Batasan bombers

From page A1

She called for sobriety as police continued to investigate the incident and secure the country.

"Instead of finger-pointing, we should be united, be vigilant against the threats that may disrupt the peace," she said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that the President had put up a P5-million reward fund "for information that could lead to the arrest of the perpetrators of bombings and prevent the occurrence of such or lead to the confiscation of illegal explosives."

Those who could give the information could call or text the hotline of the Philippine National Police at 09178475757.

Task force

The President also created a task force against political violence. The task force headed by the Department of National Defense will include law enforcement agencies.

"The mandate of this task force shall be to harness and mobilize government agencies, political groups, the religious, civil society, sectoral groups and the public for the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of political violence and the promotion of a culture opposed to violence and for the advancement of reconciliation and peace," Ms Arroyo said.

At the House of Representatives, 195 congressmen showed up for the regular plenary session yesterday, offering a minute of silent prayer to the blast victims before buckling down to work.

"Anarchists and assassins may blow our physical House to bits. But they cannot destroy the principles on which this House—our house—stands: the freedom of belief, of expression, of association, and the unity of the ethnicities, religions and cultures that make up this nation," said Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

THE MORNING AFTER: Police inspect every vehicle that enters the compound even as congressmen blame the lax security that made it possible for a bomber to sneak in. The police contingent at the Batasan complex has been replaced by troops from the elite Special Action Force. JOAN BONDOC

Senate unfazed

Congressmen agreed to each contribute P5,000 for the casualties.

Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. called for calm and said the upper chamber was unfazed. "We will tighten security but we have to let these perpetrators know that the Congress is not cowed or that they can easily destabilize the country," he said.

Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus called on police and local authorities to secure all elementary and high schools nationwide. "Schools should be insulated from it all, from politics and terrorism," Lapus told reporters.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines called on the people to remain vigilant, saying if Congress, supposedly a secure area, could be bombed, other places could be vulnerable.

"This is very alarming and scary," Msgr. Pedro Quitorio, CBCP spokesperson, said in an interview over Radio Veritas.

Avoid confusion

The United Opposition (UNO) urged police to refrain from making premature statements on the Batasan bombing, citing the contradictory theories on the Glorietta shopping mall bombing on Oct. 19 that remains unsolved. Eleven people died in that incident in Makati.

"We hope that the police and Malacañang will also avoid contributing to the confusion and instability by making conclusive pronouncements at this early stage of the investigation," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, the UNO president.

Leftist groups joined calls for an independent probe of the incident. "We do not want the investigation to turn into another Glorietta probe," said Bagong Alyansang Makabayan.

US Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney called on Speaker De Venecia to convey the embassy's condolences to the victims of Tuesday's bombing and offered to help in its investigation. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Christian V. Esguerra, Allison W. Lopez, Cynthia D. Balana, Beverly T. Natividad, Jerry E. Esplanada, DJ Yap and Jerome Aning*

Local stocks, peso up; investors ignore blast

From page A1

320-point rise on Wall Street, the expected cut in interest rates on Thursday by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, the latest batch of corporate earnings and the rise in agricultural growth.

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index, a barometer of investor confidence, rose 82.1 points, or 2.3 percent, to 3,681.62, following a two-day, 2.8-percent retreat. A total of P4.9 billion worth of shares was traded, with gainers swamping losers 90 to 28.

Forty-three other stocks were unchanged.

The peso, Asia's best performing currency this year, also closed stronger at 42.93 to the US dollar. The local currency finished at 42.98 against the greenback on Tuesday.

Astro del Castillo, managing director at investment management firm First Grade Holdings and spokesperson of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines, said the rise in local share prices was "a welcome surprise."

"We were worried that the markets will also be victimized by the bombing but when we woke up, PLDT shares in New York were trading higher and so the local investors followed," Del Castillo said.

"This is a good development. It shows that investors are now more mature and are willing to focus on macro-economic fundamentals than temporary distractions. It also shows that we continue to waltz with the overseas market," he added.

Unshaken by bombing

Analysts said the bombing had hardly shaken the business confidence of companies. Splash Corp., for instance, is pushing through with its slated public listing today at the stock market.

Splash, a leading maker of beauty products, has raised P2 billion from an initial public offer (IPO) that was completed on Monday.

"The Philippines has sound economic fundamentals. The outlook for corporate earnings is still good. The market ignored the bombing and its strong performance is a good sign for us to go ahead with the listing," Splash chief finance officer Emmanuel Manucom said.

Francisco Liboro, president of PCCI Securities, said investors reacted the same way they did in the aftermath of the Glorietta mall explosion on Oct. 19. At least 11 people and 120 others were injured in what investigators said was most likely an accidental gas explosion.

"The market (at that time) chose to wait for investigation results before reacting to the terrorist scenario ... Second, (Tuesday night's) blast doesn't affect fundamentals of the economy or of any of the listed corporations," Liboro said.

Luz Lorenzo, analyst with ATR-Kim Eng Securities, said the bombing may have been "unnerving but it does not affect the fundamental forces that drive the economy."

"Sentiment may be affected temporarily, but if it (bombing) is addressed properly, then it should not do any permanent damage," Lorenzo said.

Open wound

Before the market opened, the government announced that farm output had risen 4.3 percent in the first nine months of the year, boosting expectations that the government's full-year target of 4.5-5.0 percent would be met. Agriculture accounts for a fifth of the Philippines' gross domestic product.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., honorary chair of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said the consensus among businessmen was that Tuesday's bombing was an isolated case.

"We do not feel that this was part of an organized attempt to terrorize," he said.

In a separate interview, however, Makati Business Club executive director Alberto A. Lim said members of his group did not want to make any premature conclusions.

"However, we do not accept admonitions of moving on because we need to find out what really happened," Lim said.

"When a bomb goes off, we have to find out what caused it ... Leaving it unsolved would be like leaving an open wound that could turn gangrenous," he said. *With reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

Correction

IN THE NOV. 12 ISSUE, the editorial on Page A14 of the Opinion section—"Replacing Abalos"—misspelled the surname of President Macapagal-Arroyo's election lawyer. The lawyer's name is Romulo Macalintal—not Makalintal.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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‘Mood is good’ for peace talks with MILF rebs

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—PHILIPPINE officials and Islamic separatists met yesterday to try to settle border disputes that have so far hampered the establishment of a Muslim homeland and the signing of a peace deal, a Malaysian official said.

Negotiators began “exploratory talks” scheduled for two days at an undisclosed location in Malaysia. The meeting—made possible after both sides overcame an impasse during informal discussions last month—could lead to the signing of a peace deal early next year.

“The mood is good, but based on experience, we can expect someone to throw a spanner in the works from time to time,” Othman Abdul Razak, the chief Malaysian government facilitator for the talks, told The Associated Press.

Malaysia—which shares a long sea border with the southern Philippines—has brokered protracted negotiations between Manila and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front aimed at resolving a decades-long Muslim rebellion in the southern Philippines.

Othman said the most crucial issue remains that of “ancestral domain,” which pertains to the size of an area that would fall under Muslim control as part of a peace accord, as well as the sharing of the region's natural resources and governance.

“There are still some problems with regard to (maritime) boundaries,” Othman said. “But we're back on the track now. The end game for the current talks would be a memorandum of agreement on ancestral domain.”

Officials expect to hold another round of exploratory talks in mid-December before the possible resumption of full-fledged negotiations in early 2008, Othman said. The signing of a pact on ancestral domain could come as soon as January, he added.

Hubs of economic growth

Philippine government and Moro Islamic Liberation Front negotiators were not immediately available for comment.

The Philippine and US governments hope an agreement with the MILF could transform its vast rural strongholds in the southern Mindanao region into hubs of economic growth instead of just conflict zones that could be used to harbor al-Qaida-linked militants.

Military officials have often accused the MILF of providing sanctuary to members of the Abu Sayyaf extremist group and Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah. The MILF has denied any links.

The MILF, which the military says has 11,000 fighters, has battled for self-rule for more than two decades in Mindanao, home to minority Muslims in the mostly Roman Catholic Philippines.

Meanwhile in Saudi Arabia, a framework to revive a peace accord that ended a separatist war in the Philippines was drawn up at talks which wound up on Tuesday, the Organization of the Islamic Conference said.

Representatives from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), the government and the 57-member OIC took part in the three-day meeting in the Red Sea city of Jeddah.

‘Historic’

OIC chief Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu said the meeting was “historic, considering the results reached to move forward the peace process by establishing a framework to rejuvenate implementation” of the peace accord, the OIC said.

Under the 1996 deal, the MNLF agreed to end its bloody separatist campaign against the government in exchange for the creation of a Muslim autonomous area in the southern Philippines.

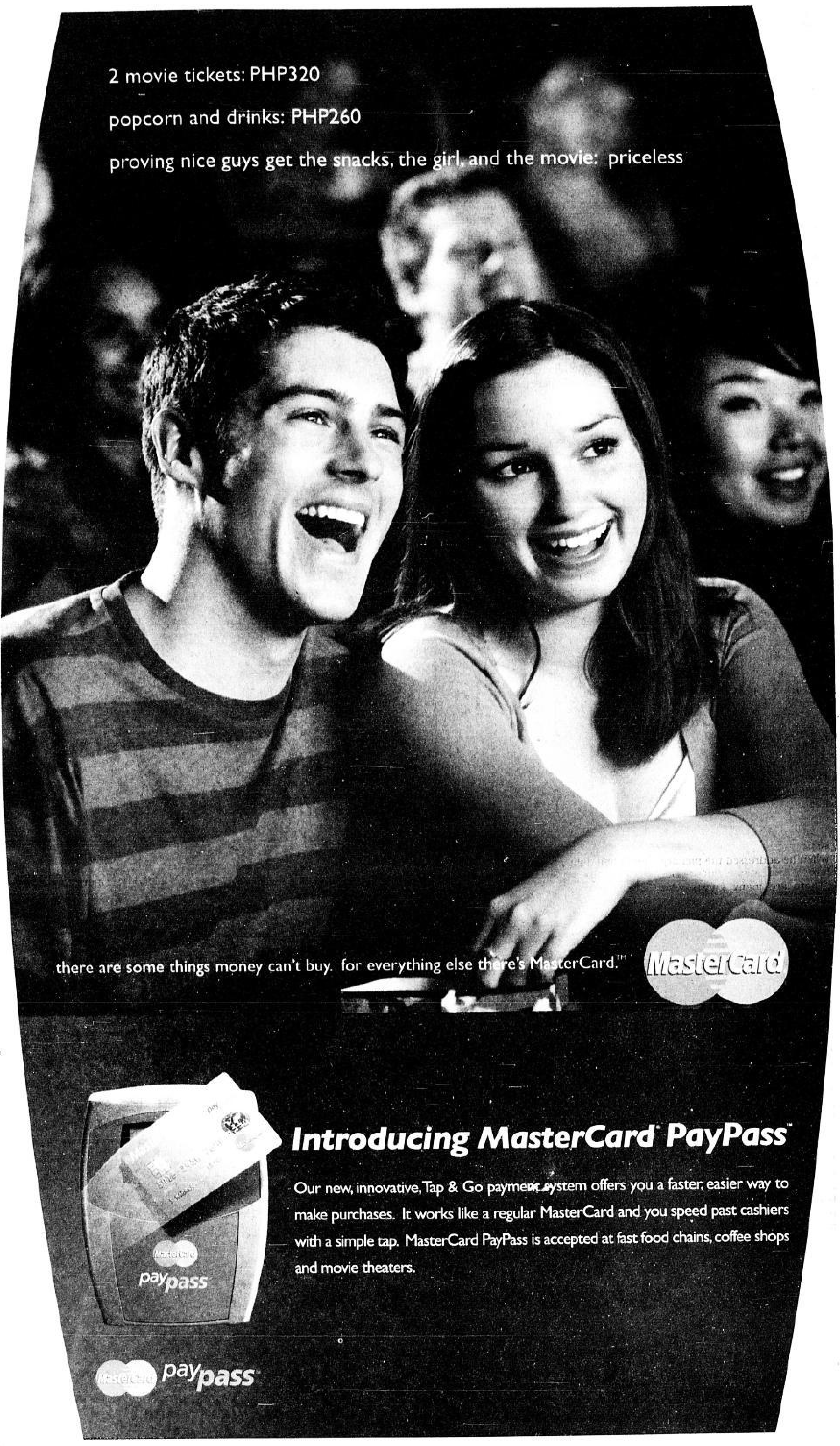
The Jeddah-based OIC said in a statement that five joint working groups had been established to examine issues such as security, education and economic development in the autonomous region.

Each group is to submit a progress report at the next three-way meeting to be held on Jan. 14, 2008 at a venue that has yet to be specified, the OIC said.

Ihsanoglu also announced the Islamic Development Bank had allocated $16 million toward reconstruction in the southern Philippines.

MNLF leader Nur Misuari was not present at the talks, the OIC said without elaborating.

AP, AFP



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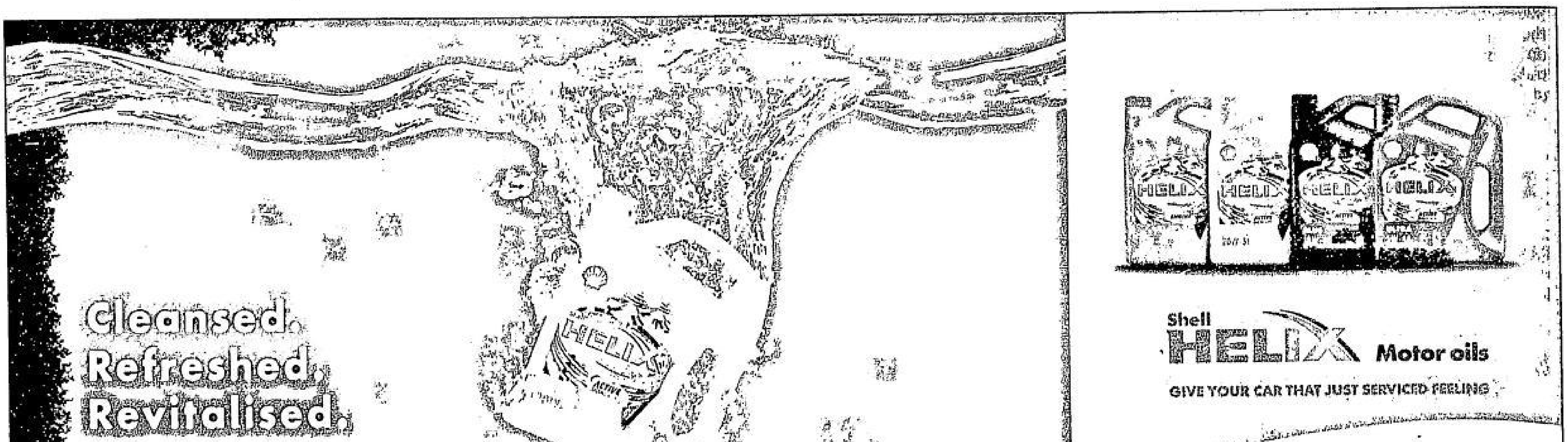

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Distrust, disapproval still high for GMA

AMID NEW CALLS FOR HER TO RESIGN over the ZTE bribery and cash handout controversies, Prèsident Macapagal-Arroyo registered an overall disapproval rating of 39 percent, the highest among the country's top five officials, from July to October, according to the latest Pulse Asia survey.

The survey, which tracks presidential performance and trust ratings, noted that that the President's overall disapproval ratings—the level of public appreciation of her work—did not change between July and October.

But her distrust ratings increased significantly during the period, increasing by 9 percentage points to 46 percent, Pulse Asia said.

The survey showed that around two of every five adult Filipinos (39 percent) were critical of the President's performance, up from 34 percent in July, while nearly half (46 percent) had "small or no trust in her," up by 9 percentage points from 37 percent in July.

Predominant sentiment

"In October 2007, distrust is the predominant sentiment towards President Macapagal-Arroyo as expressed by 46 percent of Filipinos," Pulse Asia said in the survey released yesterday.

The highest distrust ratings were registered by Metro Manilans (54 percent) and lowest by Visayans (41 percent).

Metro Manilans also continued to be the most critical of the President (51 percent), while the lowest disapproval rating (33 percent) is recorded among Visayans, Pulse Asia said in a statement.

Across all classes

Forty-two percent in Mindanao and 37 percent in the balance of Luzon were also critical of the President's performance.

Levels of disapproval increased across all areas, except in the balance of Luzon, where it decreased by 3 percentage points (from 40 percent to 37 percent). The greatest increase in disapproval ratings was posted in Metro Manila (+14 percentage points, from 37 percent to 51 percent), followed by the Visayas (+12, from 21 percent to 33 percent) and Mindanao (+10, from 32 percent to 42 percent).

MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Across socioeconomic classes, 41 percent of members of class ABC, 39 percent of class D and 39 percent of class E disapproved of the President's performance.

Levels of disapproval were also found to have increased across all classes. There was an 11-percentage point increase in disapproval ratings in the "best-off" class ABC (from 30 percent to 41 percent) and the "poorest" class E (from 28 percent to 39 percent). Among the class D, disapproval increased by 2 percentage points (from 37 percent to 39 percent).

Highest in Metro

Pulse Asia described the 9 percentage-point increase in the President's overall distrust ratings between July and October as "significant."

While 46 percent of Filipinos distrusted the President, less than a quarter (23 percent) of Filipinos trusted her, and about a third (31 percent) could not say whether they trusted or distrusted the President.

Distrust was highest in Metro Manila (54 percent) and lowest in the Visayas (41 percent). Forty-six percent in the rest of Luzon and 44 percent in Mindanao also expressed the same sentiment.

Other officials

Only Vice President Noli de Castro and Senate President Manuel Villar Jr. succeeded in scoring majority approval ratings in the quarterly survey (55 percent and 67 percent, respectively), while posting the lowest disapproval ratings (15 percent and 6 percent, respectively).

House Speaker Jose de Venecia registered an approval rating of 33 percent and a disapproval rating of 28 percent. Thirty-nine percent were "undecided" about the Speaker's performance.

Chief Justice Reynato Puno's approval rating was at 32 percent while his disapproval rating was at 22 percent. Public ambivalence toward Puno was at 43 percent. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

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Tube to drain blood from Saguisag's chest

By DJ Yap

A TUBE HAD TO BE INSERTED IN former Sen. Rene Saguisag's left chest yesterday to drain fluids that have accumulated there. Otherwise his condition remained stable, his doctors said.

The fluids, a mix of blood and water, needed to be removed to prevent complications, particularly infections, according to a medical bulletin issued by the Makati Medical Center.

"It's a procedure that takes only 15 minutes … (But) the tube will remain until the fluids have stopped accumulating," Eric Nubla, chief of the hospital's patient relations office, said.

Saguisag was injured in an early morning accident last Thursday that killed his wife, Dulce. Also injured were their driver, Felipe Calvario, and dance instructor, Rhea Obong, after a dump truck slammed into their van.

Nubla said the same procedure had been done on Calvario, who also remained in the intensive care unit of the hospital but the tube has since been removed.

SAGUISAG

Obong sustained only minor injuries and has been discharged from hospital.

The doctor added that the procedure was mostly preventive, since the fluid could cause infections or solidify and get in the way of Saguisag's breathing.

A tube attached to a respirator remained inserted in Saguisag's mouth, preventing him from speaking.

He was supposed to be taken off the respirator the other day, but the pain from his fractured ribs prevented the doctors from getting the tube out. Breathing on his own would require Saguisag to move his chest wall, causing pain.

Saguisag communicates with his family by writing notes or using head signals.

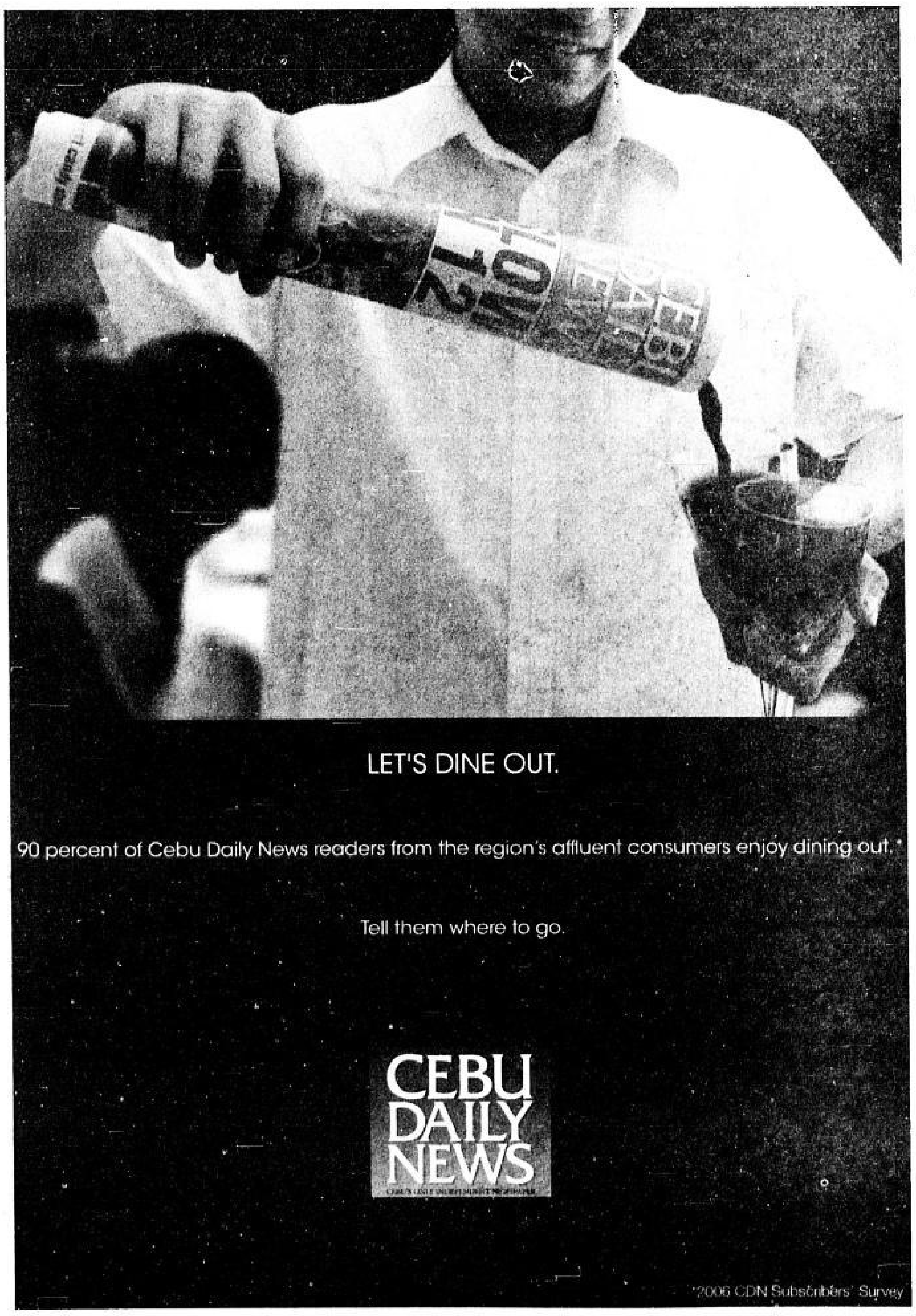
On Tuesday, the INQUIRER asked his son "Rebo" through a text message if Saguisag would like to make a public statement.

"He shook his head 'no' when I asked if he wanted to make a statement," Rebo replied.

Nubla said Calvario had shown the "most improvement" yesterday, tolerating the weaning process from the ventilator "very well."

"He is now more responsive," he said. But unlike Saguisag, Calvario was not communicative, and was not fully conscious, Nubla said.

"We're encouraging his wife to talk to him more so he'd be more awake," the doctor said. "She was holding her husband's hand, and she said she felt pressure."



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Casino video gives no clue on Dalaig killing

By Tina G. Santos and Beverly Natividad

AT LEAST THREE WITNESSES HAVE emerged with information on the murder of Alioden Dalaig, the chief of the legal department of the Commission on Elections, according to the Manila Police District.

The witnesses "gave collaborating statements" regarding what happened on Saturday night when Dalaig was shot to death by an unknown assailant, said MPD director Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales.

Dalaig, 64, was walking near the Hyatt Hotel and Casino on M. H. del Pilar and Pedro Gil streets, when he was gunned down. He died of a lone bullet that pierced his heart. Authorities found P300,000 in his pockets.

Rosales said the MPD would now depend on the witnesses' statements, which he said were "considered vital to our investigation."

Rosales also disclosed that the video footage taken by the hotel's closed circuit television (CCTV) gave no clues to the killing.

No value

"I've seen it, it has no value to our investigation. It will not be of help in our probe because it didn't show anything related to the murder of Director Dalaig," he said.

The video footage "only showed people playing at the casino," he said.

Rosales refused to elaborate further on the contents of the security tape because of an agreement that the MPD had with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor), which runs the hotel casino.

Rosales confirmed that Dalaig had been to Hyatt before he was killed. But he would not say if the Comelec official was among those caught by the CCTV playing at the casino.

Regular player

In an earlier interview, Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, head of the MPD homicide division, said a Pagcor employee had recognized Dalaig and "told us that Dalaig was a regular player at the casino."

Robbery has been ruled out since the cash found on Dalaig's body was untouched, but a transaction that Dalaig supposedly had at the casino would be looked into, Yanquiling said.

Meanwhile, the Comelec said it would furnish the National Bureau of Investigation, which is conducting its own parallel investigation into the Dalaig killing, a list of the cases that Dalaig was personally handling.

Election-related

Commissioner Florentino Tuason said the NBI was mainly looking into the angle that the killing may have been connected to the election cases that Dalaig handled.

But Tuason, the commissioner in charge of the law department, refused to name the cases in the list, saying the list must remain confidential while the investigation is going on. The release of the list may unfairly put other litigants under suspicion in Dalaig's case, he said.

The Comelec law department conducts the preliminary investigation of all election offenses described under the Omnibus Election Code, such as cases of illegal propaganda, illegal posting of campaign materials and vote-buying.

The law department is also tapped by the Comelec to promulgate legal opinions on issues faced by the poll body.

Dalaig's widow, Filomena, and brother, Bashek Dalaig, went to the Comelec office in Manila yesterday to collect the slain director's personal effects, said Tuason.

Two other election officers also figured in separate suspected election-related incidents over the weekend. A day before Dalaig's murder, Joseph del Rosario, an election officer of Bacoor, Cavite, was shot to death in General Trias.

On the same day as the Dalaig killing, Casan Laguinab, an election officer from Lanao del Sur was kidnapped along with his wife. However, Tuason said reports reaching the Comelec have confirmed that Laguinab's kidnapping was not election-related. He said the motive for the kidnapping was personal, related to a criminal case involving Laguinab and the kidnapper.

Laguinab was released last Tuesday, he said.

GMA to attend Asean summits in Singapore

By Cynthia D. Balana

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO WILL ATtend the 13th Asean Summit and Related Summits on Nov. 19 to 22 in Singapore where leaders of member-countries are expected to sign the final draft of the Asean Charter.

The Deparment of Foreign Affairs said the related summits will include the 11th Asean Plus Three Summit, the 11th Asean-China Summit, 11th Asean-Japan-Summit, 11th Asean-ROK Summit, 6th Asean-India Summit and the 3rd East Asia Summit (EAS).

On Jan. 12 to 15, the Philippines, as chair of the 40th Asean Standing Committee, hosted the sesame series of summits in Cebu where the Asean Leaders signed, among others, the Asean Convention on Counter-Terrorism, and the Asean Declaration on the Blueprint of the Asean Charter. The EAS Leaders also signed the Cebu Declaration on East Asia Energy Security.

After 10 months of negotiations, the High Level Task Force on the Drafting of the Asean Charter (HLTF) will submit the final draft of the Asean Charter. The Philippines lobbied strongly for the inclusion of an Asean Human Rights body, a provision now found in Article 14 of the final draft.

Other documents which the leaders are expected to sign are:

- The Declaration on the Asean Economic Community (AEC) Blueprint.
- The Asean Declaration on Environmental Sustainability; and
- The Asean Declaration on the 13th Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Conference on Climate Change and the 3rd Session of the Conference of the Parties Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol.

The EAS leaders, which include the Asean leaders and the leaders of Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, Korea and India, are expected to sign the Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment when they meet on Nov. 21.

Singapore has chosen the related issues of energy, environment, climate change and sustainable development as the focus of the Leaders' discussions at the 13th Asean Summit and Related Summits with the theme, One Asean at the Heart of a Dynamic Asia.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, November 15, 2007
32nd Week in Ordinary Time
Albert the Great

1st Reading: Wis 7:22-8:1
Gospel: Luke 17:20-25

The Pharisees asked Jesus when the kingdom of God was to come. He answered, "The kingdom of God is not like something you can observe and say of it: 'Look, here it is! There it is!' See, the kingdom of God is among you."

And Jesus said to his disciples, "The time is at hand when you will long to see one of the glorious days of the Son of Man, but you will not see it. Then people will tell you: 'Look there! Look here!' Do not go, do not follow them. As lightning flashes from one end of the sky to the other, so will it be with the Son of Man. But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this people."

Commentary

Do we pray for wisdom? Do we seek others who are wise, who act as God acts, to teach us and to share their company? Are we one of those people who in this generation are the friends of God? Can our communities be described in this way? Obviously all things are not governed well—in our churches and families, our workplaces/corporations and nations—so we are in desperate need of wisdom. Do we long for wisdom? And do we long for the coming of the Son of Man—crucified and risen—who comes in judgment of every human being and nation, and judges justly, on the side of those who never knew justice or the care of those who often claimed to believe in God? We are told that we must suffer and be rejected by this present age if we are faithful to God. Are we faithful? Can God rely on us?

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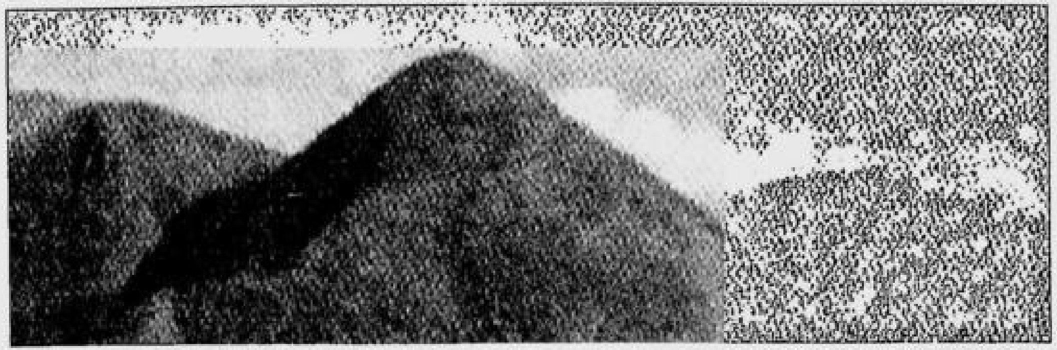
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57th Founding Anniversary

(November 15, 2007)

Messages

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Province of Oriental Mindoro
Provincial Capitol

On November 15, 2007, the province of Oriental Mindoro marks another milestone as we commemorate the 57th anniversary of the founding of our province. On this occasion, we thank the Almighty God for the bountiful blessings that have been bestowed on our province and on our people despite the adversities we have encountered in the past.

This anniversary provides an opportunity for us to glimpse at the past and reflect on what we have accomplished and on what we hope to achieve in the future. Despite the trials and calamities that we experienced in recent years, we have managed not only to survive but to rise above the challenges of time.

Today, as we mark the 57 years of our province, we aim to reach greater heights. Oriental Mindoro is now a major agricultural powerhouse in Southern Luzon. As a rice granary, our province supplies the food requirements of surrounding regions. Our rich marine areas yield fishery products. Our vast and fertile lands make our province a fruit basket.

Oriental Mindoro is also the alternative eco-tourism destination. With our proximity to mainland Luzon and Metro Manila and from the Visayas, our province offers a cheaper and more exciting alternative for visitors. Our blue coastal waters, fine beaches, towering waterfalls and scenic lakes provide an irresistible attraction for nature lovers. Our rich traditions and culture as expressed in the colorful festivals of our city and towns will also provide a memorable experience for our visitors.

Aside from being an agricultural powerhouse and eco-tourism destination, Oriental Mindoro also aims to establish its standing as the center for education in the region with the presence of educational institutions in our province. We also envision Oriental Mindoro as a major provider of quality health care service in the region with our planned new medical center in Calapan City.

Today, Oriental Mindoro plays a vital role in national and regional economic development as the bridge between Metro Manila and Luzon and the Visayas and Mindanao via the Strong Republic Nautical Highway that traverses the length of the province.

Indeed, after 57 years, Oriental Mindoro has not only risen above the challenges it has faced in the past. It aims to reach greater heights in the years ahead. With God's help, this is a dream that we can realize as we demonstrate our unity and determination as a people.

Mabuhay ang Oriental Mindoro!

Hon. Arnan C. Panaligan
Governor

OFFICE OF THE VICE GOVERNOR
Sangguniang Panlalawigan
Province of Oriental Mindoro
Provincial Capitol

It is my privilege to be part of another significant milestone in our province's history.

What the Province of Oriental Mindoro has achieved thus far makes its 57th Founding Anniversary worth celebrating.

Recognized to be the country's major food supplier to Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog and the Visayas – feeding twenty million Filipinos annually, Oriental Mindoro is making valuable contribution to the economic development and prosperity of this country.

The Province of Oriental Mindoro, regaining its status as a first class province, takes center stage in regional and national development. Oriental Mindoro, soon to become the MIMAROPA's Regional Center, will be taking the lead in rallying economic sustainability in this newborn region, thus becoming the national government's conduit to keep moving the dynamo of change that would propel our country to achieve greater economic prosperity.

With our determination and hard work, we, Oriental Mindoreños, have attained the ambitious goals we have set for 2007, and with the same passion and enthusiasm, in no time, Oriental Mindoro's progress will surely be **"Reaching Greater Heights"**.

Mabuhay po tayong lahat!

MARIA ESTELA FELIPA M. ACERON
Provincial Vice-Governor

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Presiding Officer
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2nd DISTRICT
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EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS
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PCL President
Hon. Felix B. Sapico
ABC President
Hon. Kathleen Cyrele M. Cuyas
SKPF President

PEACE AND ORDER

Oriental Mindoro is now considered by the Philippine National Police as one of the most peaceful provinces in the country.

INDUSTRIES

The thrust of the current administration is to provide employment opportunities for the huge labor force which is about 50% of the total population of 800,000. Thus, the government initiated and encouraged the development of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that are labor intensive

To encourage such development, the government launched in 2006, the One-Town, One-Product (OTOP) Program in the 14 municipalities and one city of the province. Governor Arnan C. Panaligan believes that developing and promoting products and services through the OTOP will help boost MSMEs at the local level that will, in turn, generate livelihood and employment and stimulate local economic activities.

Oriental Mindoro

Oriental Mindoro is a tropical island paradise of the Southern Tagalog Region blessed with the unsurpassed beauty of nature. Its abundant unspoiled natural treasure speaks of this province's magnificence.

As the next big island to the south of Manila and the seventh largest island in the Philippines, Oriental Mindoro has been a home to the admired reflections of creation such as the solemn ambience of waterfalls, the inviting splashes of white beaches, the thriving green forests, the mysterious adventure of caves, the delightful variety of seafood, the main home of the Mangyans and most specially, the irresistible hospitality of Mindoreños.

The enriched naturescape of Oriental Mindoro entitles the province to be an ecotourism site where everyone can indulge in their desires to hike, trek, camp, fish, dive and many other recreational activities serving as a profitable avenue for investment opportunities in terms of tourism, agricultural development, power and energy, and other business ventures.

BRIEF HISTORY

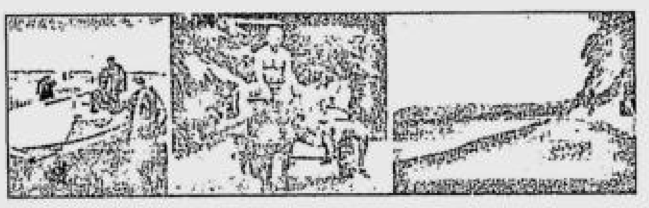
Early historical relation on February 2, 1921, Oriental Mindoro was founded by the members of the Spanish Mission. "Mina de Oro," a Spanish term which means "gold mine" described the province during the Spanish era. It was believed that gold mining during the early centuries was one of the more important economic industries here. But long before the Spanish colonization, Mindoro was already involved in trading relations with the neighboring Asian countries like China, Indonesia and Malaysia.

By 1950, the island was divided into two separate and autonomous provinces through the Republic Act No. 505, designating the eastern portion of the island as Oriental Mindoro, with Calapan as its capital, and the western part as Occidental Mindoro, with Mamburao as its capital.

QUICK FACTS

Location

Oriental Mindoro is located south of Manila, 140 kilometers away and only a 45-minute ferry ride from the International Port of Batangas. It can also be reached via air in 30 minutes from the NAIA Domestic Airport. It is bounded by Verde Island and the Verde Island Passage in the north, Maestro del Campo and Tablas Strait in the east, Semirara Island in the south, and Province of Occidental Mindoro in the west.



Political Divisions

14 municipalities, 1 city, 2 congressional districts, 426 barangays

Capital

City of Calapan with a population of 105,631 in 20,934 households (2000 *NSO census*)

Land Area

4,364.72 square kilometers (1.45% of country's total area)

Climate

Oriental Mindoro has no distinct wet or dry seasons. Average temperature ranges from 26 to 31.4 degrees Celsius. The province experiences maximum rainfall during the months of June to October. Relative humidity is registered at 81%.

Population

800,000 people mainly Tagalogs from Batangas and surrounding provinces and Visayans from Romblon and Panay Island as well as indigenous peoples from the seven Mangyan tribes

Principal Agricultural Products

Rice, coconut, citrus and banana

Mineral Resources

Oriental Mindoro is known to have deposits of gold, silver, nickel, iron, copper, chromite, gypsum, barite and marble. Its marble is said to be one of the most exquisite in the world that compares with the Carera marble of Italy. Deposits of coal found in Bulalacao are potential energy source.

Minor Forest Products

Rattan and buri

Major Industries

Light metalworks, gifts and housewares, food processing and garments subcontracting

Banking Facilities

39 banking institutions – 17 commercial banks and 22 rural banks

Power

Power is provided by the National Power Corporation and is distributed by the Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative, Inc. Total potential power capacity is 27 MW.

Communication Facilities

Five telecommunication companies operate in the province – Globe telecom, CATSI, Smart, PT&T and RCPI providing domestic and international services.

WHY INVEST in ORIENTAL MINDORO

The province of Oriental Mindoro is a major food supplier and emerging ecotourism destination. With agriculture and tourism as major industries that support the pillars of the local economy, the province offers many areas for potential investment opportunities. These opportunities range from investments in agro-processing and agri-business enterprises to tourism-oriented establishments and service enterprises as well as water, power and telecommunication technology enterprises.

Oriental Mindoro offers advantages in terms of accessibility from Metro Manila, availability of land, presence of a skilled labor force and a stable peace and order condition.

Oriental Mindoro is a vital link in the Strong Republic Nautical Highway network to the Visayas and Mindanao regions. Everyday, travelers to major Visayan destinations such as Caticlan, Boracay, Iloilo and Bacolod City traverse this nautical highway by land and roro vessels.

TRADE

The Province of Oriental Mindoro is now rising as the strategic gateway for trade and investments in the eastern side of the country. Oriental Mindoro is situated at the crossroads of big and growing markets of the CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) and the National Capital Region in Mainland Luzon, and Panay, Iloilo and Cebu in the Visayas.

As the centerpiece of the country's Nautical Highway transport system, the Calapan City Port, in a span of four years, registered an increase in cargo throughout by 76%, from 391,293 metric tons in 2001 to 690,762 metric tons in 2005. As a result of the efficient Strong Republic Nautical Highway, passenger traffic likewise jumped by 45%, from 1,560,370 in 2001 to 2,246,171 in 2005. As a result of the faster turnaround of the movement of goods and people to and from the province, Oriental Mindoro now enjoys increasing economic activities in agriculture, tourism and trade and commerce.

FOOD SECURITY

The province is one of the country's agricultural giants. It has been awarded as one of the top food producers of the country under the Presidential Gawad Sapat Ani in 2000. It is considered as the food basket of the Southern Tagalog Region, the Calamansi King of the Philippines, one of the top 10 banana producers of the country, and 3rd among the biggest fishpond areas and acquaculture production areas in Region IV.

These past four years, with its rice surplus, Oriental Mindoro has fed an average of 1.55 million people for one year.

Oriental Mindoro was able to achieve a much more rapid pace of the trading sector than it would have been if it had focused on only its limited domestic market. The bulk of outward merchandise consists of rice, banana, calamansi, livestock and poultry and fish products. Notably, Oriental Mindoro is the country's top producer of palay with an annual production of 358,000 metric tons, calamansi at 42,000 metric tons and banana at 400,000 metric tons in 2005. Inward merchandise, on the other hand, consists mainly of petroleum products, basic and prime commodities, consumer electronics, motor vehicles and parts, and construction materials. The stability of the supply of these goods contributed a consistent single-digit inflation rate that is lower than the regional and national averages.

Major trading partners are the nearby CALABARZON (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) provinces and Metro Manila which are currently the center of the country's economic gravity.

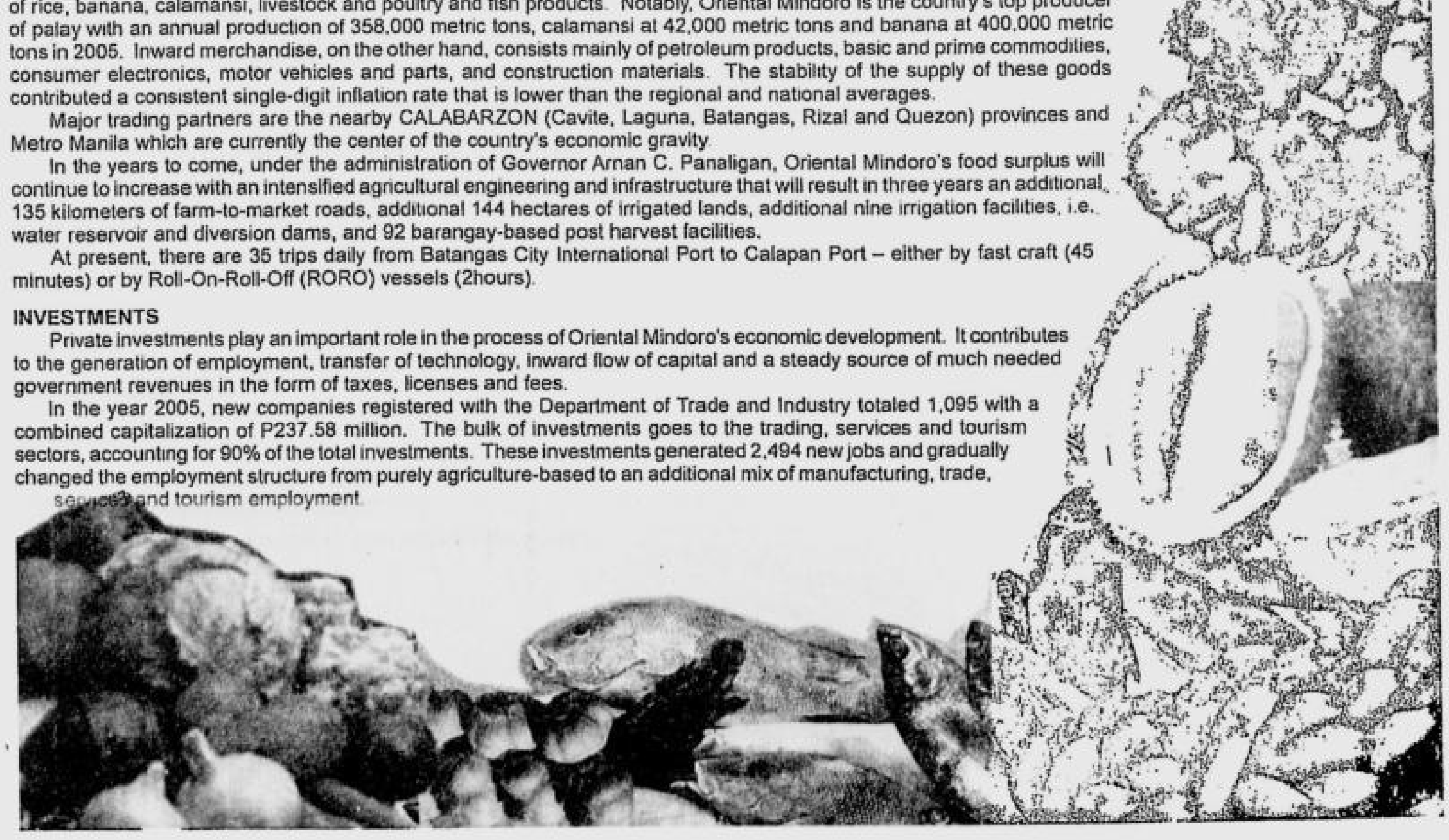
In the years to come, under the administration of Governor Arnan C. Panaligan, Oriental Mindoro's food surplus will continue to increase with an intensified agricultural engineering and infrastructure that will result in three years an additional 135 kilometers of farm-to-market roads, additional 144 hectares of irrigated lands, additional nine irrigation facilities, i.e. water reservoir and diversion dams, and 92 barangay-based post harvest facilities.

At present, there are 35 trips daily from Batangas City International Port to Calapan Port – either by fast craft (45 minutes) or by Roll-On-Roll-Off (RORO) vessels (2hours).

INVESTMENTS

Private investments play an important role in the process of Oriental Mindoro's economic development. It contributes to the generation of employment, transfer of technology, inward flow of capital and a steady source of much needed government revenues in the form of taxes, licenses and fees.

In the year 2005, new companies registered with the Department of Trade and Industry totaled 1,095 with a combined capitalization of P237.58 million. The bulk of investments goes to the trading, services and tourism sectors, accounting for 90% of the total investments. These investments generated 2,494 new jobs and gradually changed the employment structure from purely agriculture-based to an additional mix of manufacturing, trade, services and tourism employment.



GMA appoints 8 new Cabinet usecs

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT ARROYO ANNOUNCED 15 new appointments yesterday, continuing a government revamp begun shortly after the May elections.

The 23-member Cabinet was spared from the latest reorganization although the slot for the Chief of Staff, vacated by Governor Joey Salceda, remains vacant.

The appointees include eight undersecretaries for departments of agrarian reform, environment, labor, defense, energy and justice; an assistant secretary of the President's anti-smuggling task force, and four officers of government media, among others.

The new undersecretaries are: Rosalina Bistoyong (agrarian reform); Eleazar P. Quinto and Mary Ann Lucille L. Sering (environment); Lourdes Melicor-Transmonte and Arturo L. Sodusta (labor); Alberto E. Valenzuela Jr. (defense); Francisco G. Delfin Jr. (energy); and Jose Vicente B. Salazar (justice).

Named assistant secretary of the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Group under the Office of the President was former chief of the Philippine National Police Traffic Management Group (TMG), Danilo P. Mangila.

Also announced was the appointment of Vice Admiral Danilo A. Abinoja as commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard; and Rizalino G. Segundo as commissioner to represent Region II in the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, an attached agency under the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

In her media group, the Chief Executive appointed businessman Willan Y. Tieng, director of Solar Sports, and press undersecretary Robert T. Rivera as members of the Board of Directors of government-sequestered RPN-9. Rivera will serve in a concurrent capacity.

Ma. Lorelei C. Fajardo and Anthony Rolando T. Golez were appointed as deputy spokespersons under Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

Ms Arroyo began the revamp in June, following the May elections, ordering all presidential appointees in 117 government-owned and -controlled corporations and government financial institutions to submit their courtesy resignations.

Among the major changes so far were the transfer of Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to the Energy post and his replacement by former Manila mayor Lito Atienza.

On July 27, Ms Arroyo also effected a major change in her economic team, transferring Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri to the Commission on Higher Education.

Gov't has high hopes for $35-M Marcos loot

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE PHILIPPINE government is confident of soon getting a favorable ruling from the US Supreme Court on its claim over a $35-million brokerage account which the US-based Merrill Lynch is holding for the estate of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Acting Justice Secretary Agnes Devanadera said Tuesday the Palace sought and got a favorable opinion last week from the US Department of Justice on the account in the name of Arelma Foundation, a dummy corporation set up by Marcos in 1972.

The account was awarded by a US court in 2004 to victims of human rights abuses during the Marcos regime but the government appealed this judgment before the US high court.

"The US justice department issued an opinion addressed to the US Supreme Court, saying that the right of the Philippines must be recognized and respected as a sovereign state," Devanadera told reporters after emerging from a National Security Council Cabinet Meeting in Malacañang.

Devanadera went to the United States last August to make representations with the US justice department on the issue. *With a report from Jocelyn R. Uy*

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All persons having a claim against the Corporation are requested to present their claim at the Corporation's principal office at Unit 330 Mile Long Bldg., Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City for immediate settlement.

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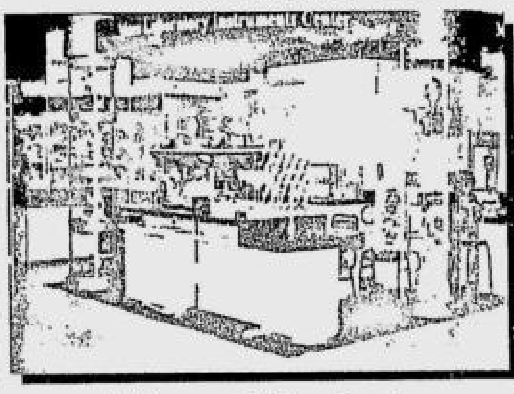

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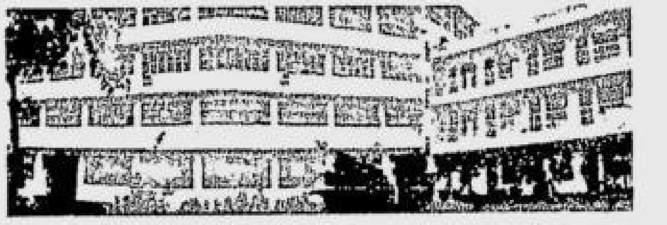

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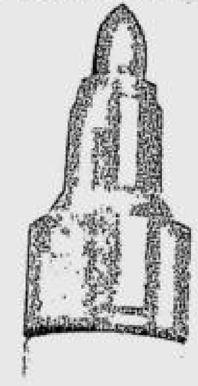

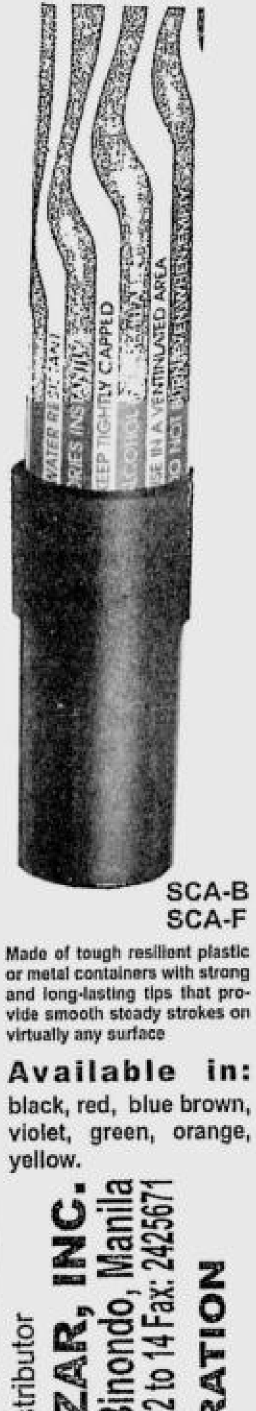

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RAFFY LERMA

A Catholic priest breaks ranks to take a picture of the new papal nuncio to the Philippines, Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams (left), who officiated the Mass on Tuesday at the Manila Cathedral during his installation.

New Senate security detail alarms Villar

WHEN TWO TRUCKLOADS OF the Philippine National Police's elite Special Action Force (SAF) in full-battle gear arrived unannounced at the Senate building in Pasay City yesterday afternoon, Senate President Manuel Villar ordered them to turn back.

The SAF detail was sent by Philippine National Police Director General Avelino Razon Jr. to replace the 60-man Police Security and Protection Office (PSPO) detailed at the Senate in the wake of Tuesday night's bombing at the House of Representatives.

But Villar seemed uneasy: "During these times, we cannot be sure if we should feel safer or become more nervous," said Villar in Filipino.

The Senate president also scolded the Philippine National Police for not coordinating with his office beforehand. Villar is supposed to be informed by the Department of Interior and Local Government of any change in police assignments at the Senate.

"I get nervous with so many soldiers around us," he told reporters.

He said the Senate does not necessarily feel safer with SAF, as this would mean having new faces securing the premises.

After about an hour, retired Maj. Gen. Jose Balajadia Jr., the Senate sergeant-at-arms, said Villar and the DILG had finally come to an agreement to let the SAF take over and replace the PSPO—but only starting today, after formal turnover rights, and only if they shed their combat fatigues for general office attire.

The SAF used to secure the Senate but they were pulled out and replaced by the PSPO last year. The pullout came after the Senate ordered the arrest and detention of Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Camilo Sabio, who was cited for contempt for refusing to cooperate in a Senate hearing.

"There will be a formal turnover tomorrow," Balajadia said, but added that the SAF will still be under his command.

Security has been heightened not only at the Senate but also at airports and other vital installations.

The National Capital Region Command of the Armed Forces of the Philippines placed its 3,000-strong force on red alert to back up police, if necessary.

At the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, aviation security took their K9 (bomb sniffing dogs) patrols into parking lots to inspect cars and motorcycles.

With reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Tarra Quismundo and Nikko Dizon

'Smile' drive won't solve airport woes

THE NEW "SMILE" CAMPAIGN of the NInoy Aquino International Airport has failed to impress airlines operating out of the crowded old terminal.

"To smile is just face-lifting. They're not looking at the main problem. The project is good, it's a good product but what we're doing is a temporary solution," said Leoncio Nakpil, chair of the Airline Operators Council.

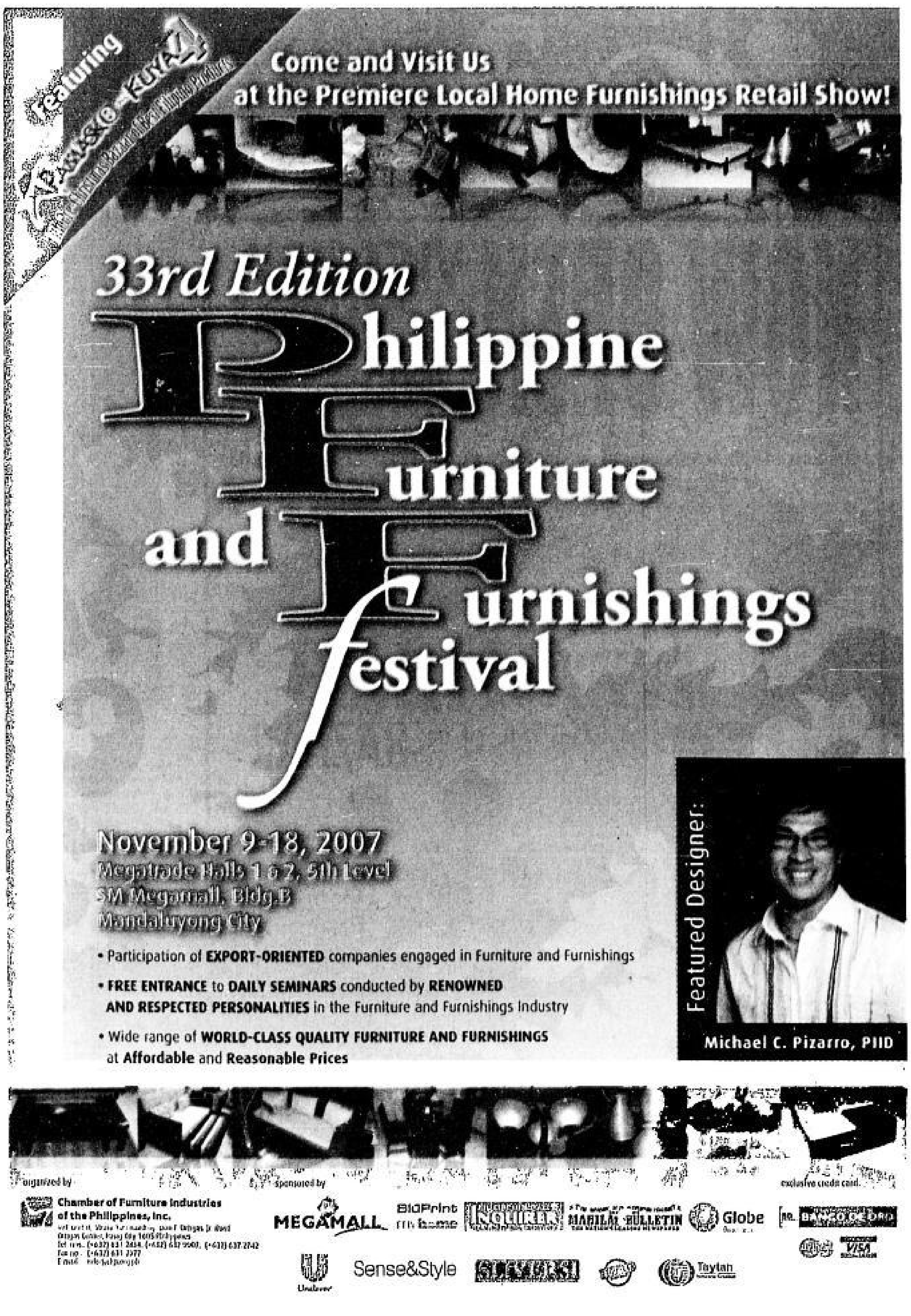
"You can smile at passengers, ok, but it doesn't solve the problems," Nakpil said.

Last Tuesday, the Manila International Airport Authority launched a campaign to promote Naia as "the smiling airport." The program, said to be an expansion of a smile campaign introduced in 2004, seeks to use Filipinos' vivacity to create a welcoming atmosphere for air travelers.

But Nakpil said the campaign does not address the problems that Naia's client airlines have long been facing: too few X-ray machines at the initial screening checkpoint, too few check-in counters and too few boarding gates.

He said he has received countless complaints from airlines over having to share check-in counters and grapple for the use of boarding gates at the old terminal.

"When you enter the airport, there's an initial security check. And how long do you wait? At least 10 minutes. At peak hours, that becomes 20. But this is not because of the security process. This is because the area is not sufficient, already too small for the procedures," said Nakpil, while noting "some improvement" in security. *Tarra Quismundo*



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SC awards $2.8-M bonus to MRT builder

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS AWARDED more than $2.8 million as bonus to a construction firm for finishing its project with the MRT Development Corp. (MRTDC) ahead of schedule.

The high tribunal upheld the ruling of the Construction Industry Arbitration Commission (CIAC) giving the said amount to Filipinas (Pre-Fab Bldg.) Systems Inc. for the early completion of the depot of the North Triangle Project in Quezon City, as provided for under its agreement with the MRTDC.

The May 2003 CIAC ruling awarding the amount to FSI was earlier struck down by the Court of Appeals.

According to the high court, the FSI was shown to have completed its task of building the two-level podium facility as part of the depot 94 days ahead of schedule. Thus, it was entitled to the bonus of $30,000 per day of early accomplishment.

It said the FSI was considered to have completed the project early because its original work schedule was effectively extended 200 days as a result of changes in the plan.

It also said that the decision of project manager David Sampson to extend the work schedule as a result of the changes binds the MRTDC.

Sampson was authorized to issue change orders since the MRTDC had hired his employer, the Parsons Interpro JV, as the project management team for the undertaking, it added.

The high court also junked as "absurd" the MRTDC's contention that it could not be bound by Sampson's decision.

"MRTDC admits that the Project Manager could order changes in the Contract Work but cannot bind the owner to it. Having to await for the consent of the owner to change orders would defeat the purpose of the authorizing the Project Manager to order such changes," it said in a Nov. 13 decision.

Under the agreement between FSI and MRTDC, the project manager was also authorized to issue change orders and time extensions, and the authority extended to the modification of the contract between the parties, it pointed out.

The high court also said Sampson could approve the time extension even after the project was completed because he directed the changes in the first place.

"He was the most competent person to do it. In addition, to delegate such function to another person not privy to the change orders would render their results questionable at best," he said.

CA ruling on Manalo brothers due

By Leila B. Salaverria

A COURT RULING ON THE MANALO brothers' petition for a writ of amparo can be expected next month after the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Department of National Defense yesterday wrapped up their defense by presenting one witness who testified that the brothers' abduction could have stemmed from a family feud.

Witness Lt. Col. Ruben Jimenez, the provost marshal of the military's 7th Infantry Division, also exonerated the members of the Civilian Armed Forces Geographical Unit (Cafgu) and a civilian who were implicated in the incident.

After Jimenez's testimony, the Court of Appeals directed the lawyer of the Manalos to submit a position paper by Monday, and for the Office of the Solicitor General to file a response by Friday next week, or on Nov. 23.

Justice Portia Alino-Hormachuelos said that after receiving the OSG's response, the case would then be submitted for decision.

Under the rules on the writ of amparo, the court is supposed to render a ruling 10 days after it is submitted for decision.

Named respondents in the case were AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. and Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro.

Yesterday, Jimenez testified that then Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan had ordered him to investigate the Cafgu members and a civilian who were allegedly involved in the abduction of Raymond and Reynaldo Manalo.

The accused Cafgu members were Michael dela Cruz, Roman dela Cruz, Maximo dela Cruz, Marcelo dela Cruz and Randy Mendoza. The civilian was Rudy Mendoza.

AD CONGRESS ROAD ASSISTANCE

Officials of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and Chevron Philippines Inc. (Caltex) pose for a photo during the signing of memorandum of agreement seeking to provide delegates of the 20th Philippine Advertising Congress road assistance on their way to Subic. A total of five assistance centers will be set up from San Fernando, Pampanga, to the gates of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority offering delegates mechanical troubleshooting and towing, first aid and ambulance, traffic assistance and motorist massage services. Present during the signing are (seated from left): Ickhoy de Leon of Chevron Philippines brand marketing, Ms Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, president and CEO of the INQUIRER and (standing from left): creative writer Vida Lacano; Jane Uy-Maturan, junior media planner of Media Edge; Dennis Leung, INQUIRER product manager; Jocel Adorable, assistant vice president and marketing director; Pepito Olarte, INQUIRER vice president for advertising; and Ged Ventura, product manager.

Make election duty optional, teachers ask

By Jerry E. Esplanada

ELECTION DUTY IS "NOT ONLY VERY DIFFIcult. Sometimes, it is also dangerous. Add to that the pay is always too little and too late."

The Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) pointed these out and demanded that government "make poll duty voluntary, not mandatory."

"We oppose mandatory poll service as decreed by numerous election laws because teachers are supposed to teach their students, not work in polling precints," Antonio Tinio, chair of the 15,000-strong ACT yesterday told the INQUIRER.

According to Tinio, "teachers must have the right to refuse to serve if they so choose."

Education Secretary Jesli A. Lapus expressed full support for the teachers' call.

"Since I was chair of the House committee on suffrage, I have taken the position that public school teachers should be freed from poll duty," Lapus said.

'Unavoidable'

He emphasized "education should be insulated from politics."

However, Lapus said "until the Commission on Elections is streamlined and elections are fully automated, poll duty for teachers is unavoidable."

Meanwhile, ACT described as a "small victory for teachers" the government's decision to release an additional P1,000 to each teacher who served in the Oct. 29 barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

"Our protests forced the Palace to see that teachers must be compensated more fairly for their services in the recent polls," Tinio said.

He said, however, that "up to now, a large number of teachers have not received their additional honorarium and P500 transportation allowance."

Still unpaid

Earlier, Tinio also assailed the Comelec for releasing the teachers' honorarium "only after election day." He also also took the DepEd to task for allegedly "washing their hands of any responsibility for the problem."

According to Tinio, "it was DepEd Undersecretary Ramon Bacani who signed the Memorandum of Agreement with Comelec stipulating that 50 percent of the funds would be released upon the issuance of election paraphernalia to teachers, and the other 50 percent upon the return of the same poll materials," he pointed out.

The Oct. 24 MOA between the Comelec and DepEd entitled teachers serving in the Oct. 29 polls to a P3,000-honorarium and a P500-transportation allowance.

The MOA, he said, "has been blatantly violated with the vast majority of teachers still unpaid."

According to Malacañang, the 2007 budget only authorized a P1,500 maximum honorarium for teachers on poll duty.

Harassment

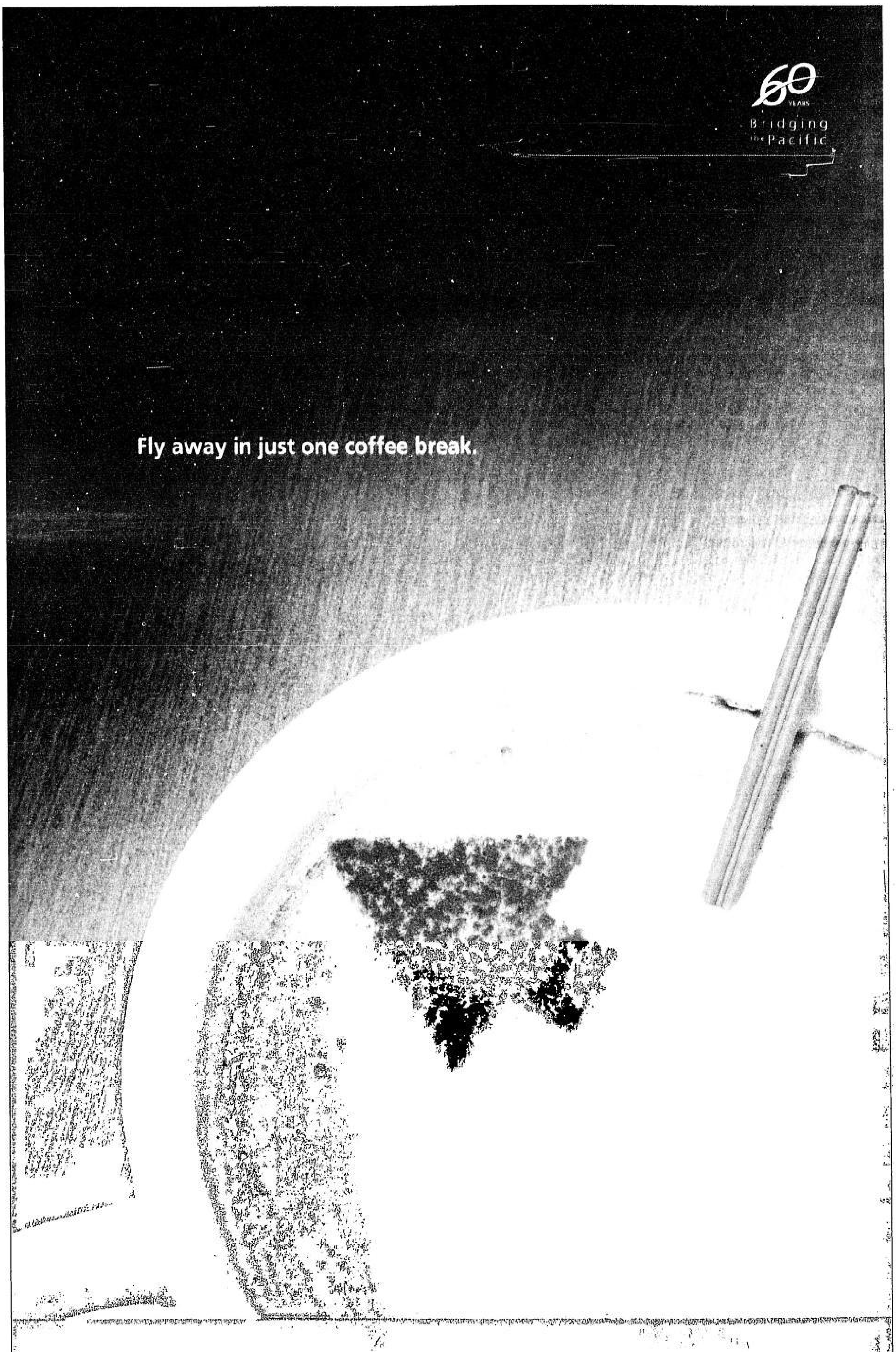
At the same time, ACT denounced the "harassment suffered by many teachers in Metro Manila and Central Luzon, among other areas, during the counting and canvassing of votes the other night."

"Many teachers were detained by poll candidates and their supporters, preventing them from leaving school premises to turn over election paraphernalia to the Comelec," the group said.

ACT held Comelec officers in these areas responsible for "failing to protect these teachers from harassment and illegal detention."

ACT also disputed the government's pronouncement that the elections were "generally peaceful."

"With 25 wounded, a (Pantabangan, Nueva Ecija) school burned down, rampant vote-buying and harassment of many teachers, the claim that the elections were peaceful was absurd," the group said.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OPINION

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Bomb

EDITORIAL

THE BOMB THAT RIPPED THROUGH THE SOUTH wing of the Batasan complex on Tuesday night did not only claim the life of Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar and three other unfortunate victims; it killed the Batasan's own aura of invulnerability. Congressmen have been assassinated in the National Capital Region before, but the House of Representatives itself has never been the target of attack.

The Philippine National Police has been quick to point to compelling evidence that a bomb had indeed been used, and to offer a working theory for the bombing. "We now have evidence of a bomb ... the cell phone and pieces of nails used as shrapnel," the Metro Manila police chief, Director Geary Barias, said yesterday. He added a reference to the bombers: "They could see their target. Those circumstances would show the target was Congressman Akbar."

Barias also said that Akbar had established a pattern any assassin could take advantage of. He was always picked up at the south wing entrance, with his car waiting for him for as long as necessary in the driveway.

The former governor of Basilan with former ties to the Abu Sayyaf certainly did not lack for enemies, thus it is probable that an enemy provoked or an ally betrayed masterminded the bombing.

But not everyone is ready to accept the PNP's working theory. Their reasons vary, and are of varying weight, but a thorough investigation should include them in its compass.

A leftist lawmaker, Gabriela party-list Rep. Luzviminda Ilagan, was among the wounded and her driver Marcial Taldo was among the dead. The high-profile participation of militant organizations such as Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela in mainstream politics has provoked controversy and caused unease among some members of the military. The police must not rule out the possibility that Ilagan and her party-mate, Rep. Liza Maza, whose own driver was wounded in the blast, were the actual targets.

The apparent modus operandi of the bombing, which as far as investigators can tell used a parked motorcycle to carry a bomb detonated through a cell phone, has been seen before, in bombings in Mindanao. Both police and military officials believe that the modus operandi has the signature of the Abu Sayyaf, or even of the Jemaah Islamiyah. The investigators also must not rule out the possibility that surprisingly lax security at the Batasan turned it into a target of opportunity.

The Akbar assassination theory of the PNP already rules out the destabilization angle, but we must note Speaker Jose de Venecia's broad assertion, made on the night of the explosion, that there was "the possibility of a terrorist, an anarchist or an extremist who wants to destabilize ... the national government." A powerful bomb explosion at the entrance to the Batasan would have sent an unmistakable message.

To be sure, the symbolic value of the Batasan as an institution of democracy has lost its luster in recent years, and the scandal involving cash gifts for local executives and congressmen that were distributed right in Malacañang has tarnished it even more. But the symbolic weight of the Batasan as a center of political power, as the exclusive domain of elite politics, even as a source of power and legitimacy of an unpopular president, cannot be discounted.

The laxity of security arrangements in the complex, made even looser with the advent of an employees' flea market, is only now coming to light. Before the explosion, the Batasan was widely perceived as tightly secured and heavily protected. Indeed, if one were to assassinate a congressman with a bodyguard, a place full of other congressmen with other bodyguards would be an unlikely place to start.

Of course, if the evidence points firmly to a brutal attack on Akbar, so be it. The death of a young congressional staffer like Maan Bustaliño makes the very idea of "collateral damage" that much harder to accept, but as in the case of the 2002 bombings in General Santos and Zamboanga that were marked by the same deadly signature, bombs like the one that tore a hole in the Batasan concrete do not distinguish between friend or foe, the guilty or the innocent.

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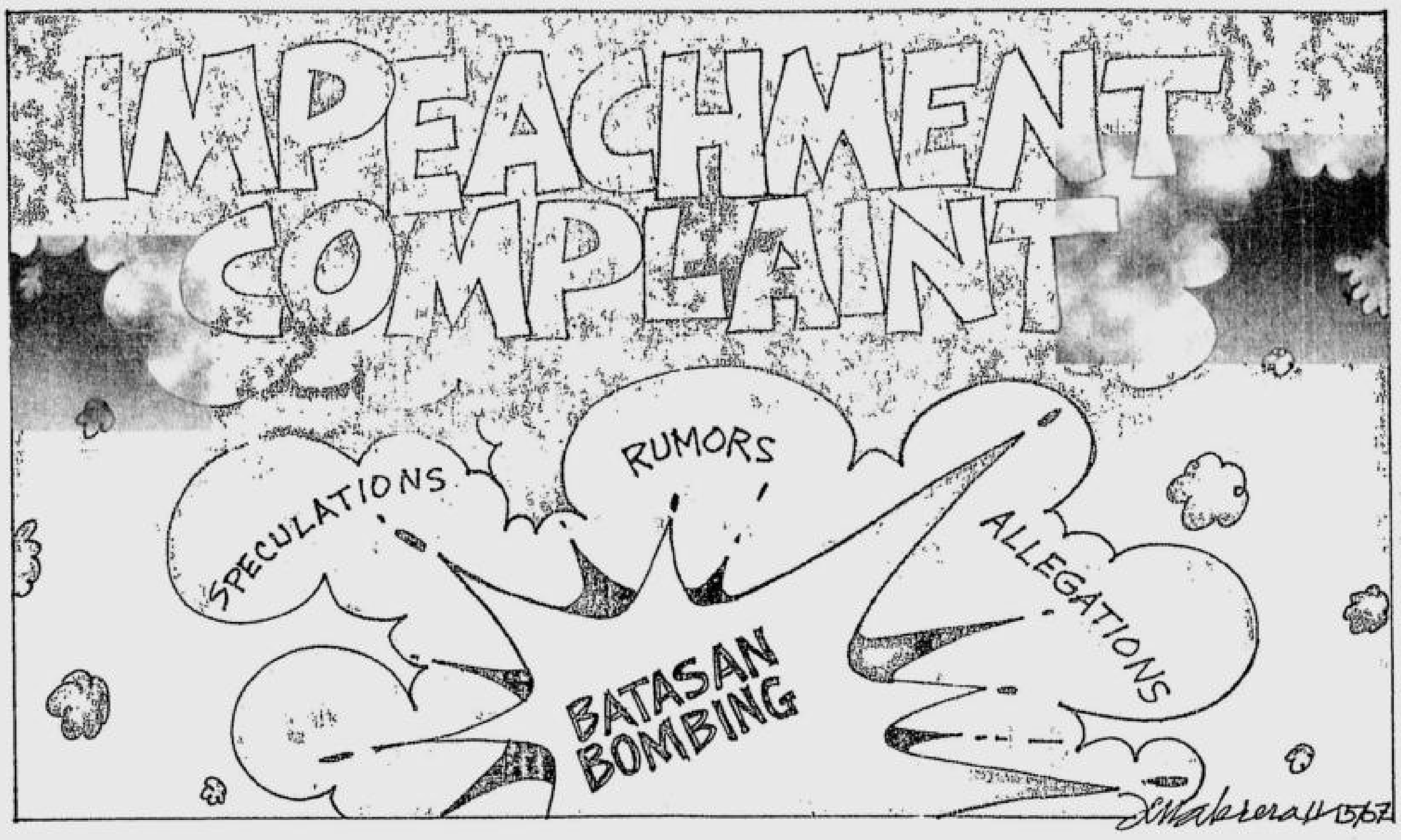

Dumping tin halos

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"WE'RE ALL EXPERTS AT PRACTICING VIRTUE (from) a distance," Notre Dame University president Theodore Heshburg writes.

His comment aptly describes the farce of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile dubbing Speaker Jose de Venecia "hypocrite" and a "pretender."

This had nothing to do with "The Great Pretender," the Platters' schmaltzy song of 1956. Rather, De Venecia "had the gall to call for a national moral revolution" while backing the graft-laced North Luzon Railways Corp. (NorthRail) and National Broadband Network (NBN), just one of the skeleton-crammed cabinets, Enrile asserted. "I'm furious at hypocrites, people who pretend to be someone they are not."

OK. So, those with high Pharisee quotients don't bag popularity awards. "God has given you one face/And you make yourself another," Shakespeare groused.

But didn't Enrile do that, too? He hasn't lived down faking his car ambush to trigger martial law. The Davide Commission found Enrile's fingerprints all over "God Save The Queen" coups. And who invented *dagdag-bawas* electoral fraud? Ask Sen. Aquilino Pimentel. Indeed, it's easier to battle for one's principles, than live up to them

"The true hypocrite," Andre Gide wrote, "is the one who lies with sincerity."

A panicked Malacañang burnt a month to draft a sieve-like explanation for paper bags stuffed with P200,000 to P500,000 doled to local officials and legislators. In contrast, Pampanga's 26th governor told the truth in a snap. In mid-October, a Malacañang staffer shoved a bag stuffed with P500,000 on him, Gov. Eddie Panlilio said. On front pages, "Among Ed" displayed five bundles of P100,000 each.

President Macapagal-Arroyo met at the Palace with 200 officials from the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines. Panlilio was present. She conferred with 190 congressmen earlier. Some deny the bags they toted home contained equivalent sums. Most zippered their lips. But all kept the bags. That's not reason enough to booby-trap Congress.

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco is Congress' "No. 1 jet-setter." He pocketed P200,000. "But it was a Christmas gift," he moaned in Gidean sincerity.

Santa comes in October? *Onli in da Pilipins.* That confirms that we have the world's most-stretched out Christmas Season.

Cuenco's "Christmas gift" has molted more times than a chameleon: from Palace denial, the budget department's washing of hands, to fund-strapped local officials claiming they gave the money, to Kampi's limp admission. "Hypocrites kick with their hind feet while licking with their tongues," a Russian proverb says.

"Put yourself in the shoes of Imelda Marcos," suggests Jonathan Watts of the Guardian newspaper. As one of the world's 10 richest women, she was "intimate with dictators." She owned "arguably the biggest private collection of art—and footwear—on the planet." Today, you're a widow, garlanded with corruption charges and "ridiculed across the globe as a by-word for extravagance and bad taste... Many of your shoes have been confiscated. And if that's not enough, you have gained as many extra pounds as years." What would you do?

"Promises cost nothing," Edmund Burke once said. Hence, "hypocrisy can afford to be magnanimous with promises."

In a pre-77th birthday interview last year, Imelda told Time magazine that the do-nothing Marcos Foundation would alleviate poverty. "People say I'm touched in the head," she said. "But I'll come up with a project that will wipe out poverty in two years."

Davao's Mariannet Amper couldn't wait. The 12-year-old hanged herself due to unrelieved penury. In a letter to the "Wish Ko Lang" TV program, Mariannet said she yearned for a bag, a bicycle, jobs for her parents—and a pair of shoes. Surely, Madam can empathize with this wish to be shod.

Bongbong and Imee Marcos didn't wait. They've dumped their halos, heeding Mark Twain's counsel: "Nothing so needs reforming as other people's habits." Ex-cronies had developed a nasty habit: they pocketed funds, parked in their firms, by the dictator who flaunted a halo. "Hypocrisy is the homage which vice pays to virtue."

The Presidential Commission on Good Government backs Rep. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s claim that 60 percent of nine Lucio Tan firms is Marcos'. Sister Imee shoves collection bills under the doors of GMA's Gilberto Duavit. "Imee's List" covers 21 pages, People Power crowds found. This will keep both Marcos children busy.

In Lapu-Lapu City, Mayor Arturo Radaza hijacked the Our Lady of Rule pulpit to attack "uncivilized businessmen," the Cebu Daily News reported. These savages did "not pay taxes and spread lies about him." But it's true that the Ombudsman suspended Radaza for splurging on overpriced Asean street lamps. It's also true that businessman Efrain Pelaez filed charges against 18 city officials for buying P23 million worth of computer clones.

Radaza was not amused. Handcuffed by the courts from padlocking Pelaez's companies in Mactan's export processing zone, Radaza insists that 80 tenants get permits from City Hall—or else. He didn't bother with this issue for a decade until he was sued.

In dolling up harassment as "law enforcement," city officials are reminding the country's 17 other economic zones about George Bernard Shaw's caustic remark: "Where there is no religion, hypocrisy becomes good taste."

Indeed, "the greatest way to live with honor in this world, is to be what we pretend to be." That's from Socrates, not the Platters.

* * *

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Life and death

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

AND FINALLY: I'M GLAD THE CATHOLIC Church did not put up a resistance to Mariannet Amper being buried in hallowed ground with the usual Catholic rites. I had wondered all weekend how it would deal with her case. As far as I know, the Catholic Church strictly forbids a Catholic burial for suicides.

Well, maybe the Church had no choice, given the outpouring of grief and commiseration that went the 12-year-old's way notwithstanding her grievous trespass on Church teachings. Not bestowing the last sacraments on her might have sparked a religious uprising of Lutheran proportions in this country, such as nothing else—not even the Archbishop of Davao saying there is nothing to convict GMA in the eyes of the public amid the open bribing of local officials on Palace grounds—has done.

It was an achingly poignant scene, Mariannet's final moments on earth, or above ground. The whole school and neighborhood went to pay their last respects and people wept openly as she was lowered to the ground. Fr. Zenon Ampong sounded a reasonable note, if quite a vague one, when he said the Church doesn't condone suicide but recognized that Mariannet didn't just die by her own hands, she paid with her life for the sins of others.

Others expressed a need for courage amid adversity. A neighbor, a 24-year-old mother of three, said: "Even if we are poor, we should not stop striving because there is hope if we try hard." Mariannet's teacher said her school would provide counseling to the other kids to make sure what she did would not be repeated.

These are not blithe sentiments, wrung out as they are from the painful sight of a loved one lost forever—other than in the afterlife for those unshakably convinced of it. But I don't know that we should leave things at that, or content ourselves with these consolations, however deeply felt. I don't know why this death shouldn't stoke us instead to, paraphrasing Dylan Thomas, rage, rage, at the dying of the light.

Understand: All the things I've written this week are not meant to extol what Mariannet has done or set her as an example for others to follow. All of it is to rue the waste of a precious life, belonging probably to a sensitive soul, and indict a society that made it possible. I am not an advocate of suicide, other than the wholesale one of our public officials, which isn't likely to happen anyway. Unlike Japan and Korea, the wrong people commit suicide in this country. Alas, God has to prove his existence to Filipinos in more mysterious ways.

I wish Father Ampong had expressed his point in a more forceful, or less ambiguous, way. Whether you are a Christian or not, you will be hard put to see how any God, capable of divine wisdom and compassion, can punish a child driven by desperation to find oblivion more attractive to sentient life with hellfire while rewarding all those who routinely figure in bribery scandals, or worse, murder, with heavenly bliss—or the promise thereof so long as they also routinely go to Mass and say "I...am...sorry." Had the Church refused to open its grounds to Mariannet, that would have been the thought to test the faith of every Christian in this country.

The differential way the Church treats rich and poor in this country, indeed the deferential way it treats the rich and condescending way it treats the poor, is enough to make a heathen out of anyone. The Church wants to remain a force in the moral life of Filipinos, I don't know why it shouldn't instead strictly forbid Christian burial for known liars and cheats, pillagers and murderers. Suicides harm only themselves, liars, cheats, pillagers and murderers harm the world. Why vow eternal damnation upon the one and not the other?

While at this, the Church wants to remain a guide for right and wrong in this country, I don't know why it shouldn't tell the officials of this government, whose every existence is enough for many Filipinos to want to end theirs, that if they all hanged themselves by the neck till they are dead, they would find forgiveness in the eyes of God and man.

That brings me to the resolve expressed by the mourners to go on and cling to hope amid darkness and difficulty. That is, of course, admirable; that is, of course, heroic. Especially so in light of today's arduous circumstances. But I don't know why that shouldn't go as well with an open, loud and wrathful denunciation of those who make the poor even poorer with their theft of life and sustenance, who snuff out the hope from their hearts like a blast of cold wind on the gasping votive candles of Quiapo. Corruption isn't abstract, it's real. It takes away the scraps of food from the table of the hungry. It kills.

It's not Mariannet's classmates that need counseling: The likelihood that they would follow in her footsteps and hang themselves from want isn't great. It's the corrupt and ungodly that need counseling—or more than counseling, threatening: The likelihood they will continue to rob and pillage, murder and destroy, is huge. It's they that need to be warned: The day will come when retribution shall fall on their heads, as surely as night comes at the end of a long day, if not in this world in the one Christians believe will be there at the end of things. It's admirable and heroic to strive on amid obstacle and adversity; it's even better to remove the source of the obstacle and adversity to begin with.

Mariannet Amper has finally been laid to rest, physically, but I don't know that we ourselves, who are rumored to still be living, can afford to put her entirely to rest spiritually. I personally hope she lives on to become the thing that pricks the conscience of the king. (Never mind the queen, she ain't got any.)

I personally hope she goes on to haunt this country back to life.

Police should get to bottom of House crime

A DEADLY BOMB RIPPED THROUGH THE BATAsan Tuesday evening, killing Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar and three others and wounding several other persons. It was the first time such violence happened in our legislature and it shocked the nation. Chatting briefly with UK Ambassador Peter Beckingham yesterday at the launch in Malacañang of "Bridges—Dialogues Toward a Culture of Peace," he recalled the killing of a member of Britain's House of Commons by the Irish Republican Army as he left Parliament years ago in London. Former Sen. John Osmena also noted that Akbar was the second congressman from Basilan to be killed in Manila while getting into his car.

* * *

The popular theory is that the dastardly bombing really targeted Akbar in what was a political killing. A Muslim scholar, he was also a former rebel commander, like a number of House members, and his clan has virtual control over the island. But there's also the theory that it was the handiwork of some aggrieved military elements in retaliation for the alleged role of Akbar's followers in the beheading of 14 Marine soldiers a few months back. Ilocos Norte Rep. Roque Ablan told me that his late colleague was supposed to leave today as part of the House delegation to the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP) conference in Iran. Ablan said that Akbar had been worrying lately about his personal safety and was thinking of adding security personnel. We hope the police will be able to catch the perpetrators of the crime and determine whether it's part of the current destabilization moves against the administration.

* * *

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

Ablan called to express gratitude for my stand on the NorthRail project. He recalled that during the AAPP conference in Chungking, China, some years back, Speaker Jose de Venecia was not able to deliver his speech as he was not feeling well. But Ablan was able to persuade the organizers to allow JDV to make a two-minute toast, which lasted eight minutes. Ablan recalled that Chinese Premier Li Peng was quite impressed and although so many parliamentarians were swarming around him, the Filipinos succeeded in having a private chat with him. When he asked them what China could do for RP, Ablan whispered to JDV that we needed trains for the North. JDV quickly saw great prospects for his native Dagupan and proposed the railway project to Li Peng. Negotiations soon started between the executive department and the Chinese Eximbank for a 20-year soft loan for the NorthRail. "I don't know why the Speaker should be blamed when all he did was propose it to the Chinese," said Ablan. "If anything, he ought to be decorated for it."

* * *

My friend Dr. Mita Pardo de Tavera had known about St. Raphael of St. Joseph, a.k.a. Joseph Kalinowski, and was looking forward to celebrating her 88th birthday on the feast of this Carmelite "priest of the confessional," as both of them were born on Nov. 19. But God decided to have Mamita join the saint in heaven instead. This Polish priest and patriot, who marks the centennial of his birth this Monday, was the only Carmelite priest to be made saint more than 300 years after the great mystic St. John of the Cross. Kalinowski served 10 years at hard labor in Siberia for joining the Polish insurrection against Russia. He was ordained priest at the age of 46 and took the name Raphael of St. Joseph, and later became prior of the Carmelite monastery of Wadowice, Pope John Paul II's birthplace. At his beatification in Poland in June 1983, John Paul II said, "It's a miraculous Providence that wished myself to beatify this great servant of God, right here in Cracow." In November 1991, the Pope declared him a saint.

A great devotee of the Blessed Mother, Raphael worked indefatigably for the unity of the Orthodox and Roman Churches and the restoration and growth of the Carmelite Order in Poland. He must have welcomed Mamita to heaven.

* * *

The Second International Congress on Education in Love, Sex and Life will be held starting Tuesday, Nov. 20, up to Nov. 22 at the Edsa Shangri-La in Mandaluyong City. It will discuss topics such as character education, human sexuality, sex education in the classroom, pre-marital sex and divorce—issues that today confront parents, teachers, young professionals and university students who aspire to work for the youth's well-being. The congress, whose slogan is "ikeepLOVEreal," says its theme "presents marriage, home and family life as the goal of efforts towards education in friendship, human sexuality and relationships."

The first congress was held in Mexico City in May 2006 and the Manila congress will be a follow-up of Mexico's sub-themes, but with an Asian and Asia-Pacific flavor. Renowned educators, sociologists and psychologists from around the world will address the congress, with support from such groups as InterMedia, a Rome and Chicago-based foundation promoting family and education values; EduChild Foundation Inc., a private initiative of local parents who seek to foster sound and healthy family life and child education; and DAWV, a foundation for women volunteerism and poverty alleviation. For more information, contact Dr. Antonio Torralba at www.edicongress.com or 635-6114 and fax 910-1328.

* * *

Don't forget to come to the "grandmother of all bazaars," the Marche Christmas Bazaar, this Saturday and Sunday at the Makati Sports Club in Salcedo Village. Run by Marche International Foundation under Yu Ming Chin and Myrna Alimurung, this popular bazaar, now on its 8th year, has a good track record for offering the widest selection of imported and local goods as Christmas gifts. It will benefit a number of philanthropic foundations such as the Rising Phoenix Foundation, which will have a grand raffle to expand its drug rehab center in Tagaytay. Call Myrna at 0917-5368-413 or the secretariat 637-5638.

Suicide has no heroes

THE MEDIA FRENZY, THE BLAME GAME, THE breast-beating, the outpouring of sympathy and the if-only's that followed turned out to be more surreal than the suicide itself.

Everybody but everybody had something to say about 12-year-old Mariannet Amper of Davao City, about her diary, her family's poverty, her dreams and dashed hopes. And how she ended it all with a rope. So young and so despairing.

Someone's got to take the blame was the undying refrain, the knee-jerk reaction of many. And why not? Mariannet's lot in life was indeed something for the *yagit telenovelas* and bleeding-heart movies that truly resonate with many Filipinos, both poor and not so poor.

But suicide, as psychotherapists would tell us, is not as simple as cause and effect or this equals that. Not everyone who goes through what Mariannet had gone through, not everyone whose life is more difficult than hers would want to end his or her life.

But why, is the question most people ask of the most unlikely suicides. While in the case of Mariannet, the most likely remark most people would say was, but why not? Or, but of course. She was poor, though not the poorest. But it is not as simple as that.

There was this pop song that became a hit among the young more than a decade ago, and it was about suicide being painless. "Suicide is painless," it says, "it brings on many changes." When I quoted this line some years ago (after the death of a son of a senator), I was surprised to get a barrage of e-mail from readers who supplied the rest of the lyrics.

In the case of Mariannet, her passing brought on many reactions and actions that could translate into meaningful changes. I hope there are no more Mariannets out there who would resort to suicide to bring about changes. A psychotherapist I know well, who will be probing deeper into this case, told me: "There are many factors that combine and interact and we have to know how they work together. Then we can find ways to prevent it and also prevent other children from imitating."

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

The book "Survivors of Suicide" by Rita Robinson, an award-winning journalist specializing in health and psychology, is a good book on the subject. It draws from the experiences of the survivors and the bereaved, as well as those of scientific experts, therapists and law enforcers. The first chapters describe the impact, shock, grief and guilt of the surviving next of kin.

Robinson lists 17 suicide myths, the wrong beliefs about suicide. Some of them are: that people who threaten to kill themselves don't really mean it; that there is no forewarning; that one shouldn't confront the person who is suicidal; that those who commit suicide are insane; that suicidal people want nothing more than to die; that it runs in families; that religious people are less likely to commit suicide.

Who commits suicide? How does clinical depression lead to suicide? How does the brain react to depression? Getting help is very important.

The blame game is tackled, too. It is tough for those who are mentioned in suicide notes, especially if they are young. Although it is natural to blame someone, it is important for survivors not to place or accept blame.

The book gives historical perspectives and discusses ancient attitudes, the attempts to unlock the mystery of suicide and the role of societies in suicide. Perspectives from the great religious traditions are examined as well. And finally, how to prevent suicides, the role of guns, warning signs, etc.

But the most interesting, the stuff that hold the reader (as Robinson, the journalist, would know) are the true-to-life cases, the testimonies of those who've had to go through the tragedy and, in the case of suicidals, the temptation. Robinson also offers media guidelines and tackles teen suicide.

Health institutions like the Centers for Disease Control have come up with guidelines for schools. Here are some: It is important to stress that suicide is the result of a dysfunctional behavior by a troubled personality. Reduce the identification with the actions of the deceased, and reaffirm that it was the fault (decision) of the person who committed suicide and not someone else. And one very important thing: Don't glorify the death or prolong praises and tributes for the diseased. Teenagers could get ideas, you know.

Here are media guidelines from CDC: Reporting should be concise and factual. Excessive or sensational reporting can lead to contagion. (Think of the many suicidal Filipinos who keep using the giant billboards as their launching pad.) Reporting technical aspects of the suicide is not necessary. Suicide should not be presented as an effective coping strategy. Suicide should not be glorified. Expressions of grief such as public eulogies and public memorials should be minimized.

Robinson notes that the World Health Organization reported that in the last 45 years, the suicide rate has increased 60 percent worldwide. Suicide is now among the three leading causes of death of people aged 15 to 44.

The song "Vincent" is about art genius Vincent van Gogh's choice to cut short his own stint in this world. It begins with "Starry, starry night, paint your palette blue and gray," and ends with "I could've told you, Vincent, this world was never meant for one as beautiful as you."

It is a masterpiece of eulogy set to music, like Van Gogh's paintings of sunflowers and starry nights. But I disagree with its *fuga mundi* (flight from the world) theme at the end.

Sure, there are lessons to be learned. But let's not make Mariannet a hero or martyr-saint. She was a precious 12-year-old kid going through a dark night.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

House in the line of fire

IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS, CONGRESSMEN were killed in their home provinces. Assemblyman Julio Nalundasan was killed in Ilocos Norte as he was brushing his teeth, and the blame was put on a young college sharpshooter named Ferdinand Marcos, who happened to be the son of Mariano Marcos, whom Nalundasan had defeated in the election.

In these bad new days, a congressman is fair game even in the national capital. Before the May elections, Abra Rep. Luis Bersamin Jr. was gunned down as he emerged from his niece's wedding at the Mount Carmel Church in New Manila, Quezon City. His driver was also killed by the same assassin. Among the casualties, caught in the crossfire between the assassin and Bersamin's security detail, was a 13-year-old watch-your-car boy. Collateral damage.

Tuesday night, according to the authorities, a remote-controlled bomb exploded outside one of the entrances of the House of Representatives, killing Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar and three others, and wounding several others more, including two House members. The authorities are proceeding on the assumption that the target was Akbar, and that the accompanying murder and mayhem were collateral damage.

More than one commentator has pointed out Akbar's, shall we say, controversial career, and that the moral of the tale is that those who live by the sword, die by the sword. Akbar was fiercely proud of his warrior past, associating it with the history of his kinfolk and co-religionists. And there may have been some truth to that assertion.

As historian Patricio Abinales pointed out in his essay, "Re-constructing Colonial Philippines, 1900-1910," the American army preferred to govern the Cordilleras and Mindanao separately, and established a kind of informal alliance that, on the whole, worked well.

As Abinales describes it, "A major reason for the American success was the cooperation extended by Muslim and Cordilleran leaders to the Americans. They regarded colonial rule as a means of protecting themselves against Christians and 'lowlanders.' American military officials reciprocated this cooperation by resisting the efforts of Filipinos to extend their power to the 'special provinces.' A working relationship eventually developed between these community leaders and the Americans whereby the former were given minor posts in the provincial government ('tribal wards' in the case of the Muslims) in exchange for agreeing to recognize American sovereignty. US army officers who administered these areas also became their protectors against Filipino leaders, doing everything they could to limit the presence of Manila and the Nacionalista Party in the Cordilleras and 'Moro Mindanao'."

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

This alliance only broke down, according to Abinales, and resulted in "the only major resistance [coming] from the Muslims at the hills of Bud Dajo and Bud Bagsak, when the army declared a ban on weapons and raised head taxes. American military superiority prevailed and over a hundred Muslim men, women and children were killed. Politically, however, these actions eroded the army's standing..." Consequently, American army rule in these areas was withdrawn and these areas were placed under the influence of Filipino civilian leaders.

Abinales' description of the cooperation between Muslim leaders and American military officials is relevant here, because its most spectacular breakdown occurred when the American military insisted on imposing a ban on weapons. Fast forward several generations later, and who can forget Akbar's fiery pronouncements in the session hall of the House? Ellen Tordesillas last Aug. 20, quoted this passage from Akbar's privilege speech: "Let me insert the facts, that Muslim attitude towards firearms borders on obsession. They love guns so much. To me, they even prefer guns over their children and wives, their crazy-like mentality towards guns is very difficult to eliminate. Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, could you imagine they can carry their firearms everywhere but it is hard for them to carry their children on their laps, they can afford to sleep without their wives beside them but not without their guns on their side? Every morning they see to it that their guns are clean and ready but cannot afford to wipe away the dirty noses of their own children. That's how they love their guns and guns, which to them, are an extension of their manhood. Any action that would mean to remove their guns from them, to them is an act of insult. Family feud is common so they are not only using their guns against the military but they also use it as their protection."

But this is not about a clash of civilizations, because if this were an assassination, then it's as much about a shared culture of violent retribution that shows that Christians and Muslims alike believe in the power of the gun, and in the ultimate sanction assassination imposes. The means, opportunity and motive, this early, are being ascribed to the military, who have no love for Akbar because of both the Lamitan siege in 2001 and the Tipo-Tipo killings of Philippine Marines last July 10. If the government goes down this path of investigation, the question becomes whether it was soldiers on AWOL or on active duty who did it. Either way, it connects not to Basilan, but to Bersamin's killing: this is a government that cannot protect its own officials.

The subliminal message sent by the way Akbar was killed was, "Who cares if there was collateral damage? They were just congressmen, anyway." Think of it. What it says. What it tells us. And what that implies, regardless of who was the actual target of that Batasan bombing.

The Speaker says it was an assault on Congress, and he may be right. The nature of the bombing suggests that the House, in the minds of the bombers, was as worthy a target as anyone they specifically wanted killed.

Sweet defeat

FIVE YEARS AGO, I PLUNGED INTO POLITICS—ONLY TO taste a stinging defeat.

At the age of 16, I was already somebody to reckon with in our humble hometown, somewhere in the North. In school, I was on top of a hundred graduating students. I was president of the student government, and corps commander of Citizen's Army Training. I was an officer of other clubs and organizations in and outside the school.

To the community, I was the good boy every mother wanted to have. People knew me as the young boy who played for an hour and read books for five hours. Local officials listened to my speeches and shook hands with me. Everyone in the community knew me.

YOUNG BLOOD

Jessie Villamore J. Viloria II

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

Given such a background, it wasn't hard for me to decide to run for the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) chairmanship. I ran for the office without knowing much about the specific functions and responsibilities it involved. I knew I could win and I thought I could easily perform the usual job, whatever it entailed. I was quite attractive. I could speak like a seasoned politician in front of a crowd. I could dance the *balse* and sing OPM. I could organize basketball tournaments and dance competitions. I could organize a poster making contest for anti-drug and environmental campaigns. I could get along well with high government officials. I believed I had the natural cunning of a politico! What else could anyone ask for?

I won the elections. Next thing I knew, on that faithful weekend after my proclamation, I was roaming the whole town on my sports motorcycle and, in the company of two of my classmates, confidently wooing other SK chairpersons to pick me as president of the SK Municipal Federation. Like any other politician, I promised them my assistance in securing funds for their projects from various government offices. And I was sure I could do it because my uncle was a provincial board member and almost all the local officials knew me.

I was not surprised when I got the nod of the majority of the chairpersons despite the absence of a political machinery and without spending a single centavo. The parents of my two opponents, who seemed to be more enthusiastic in campaigning than their daughters, acknowledged that I would win when the voting was done. And I was confident that the position was already mine.

Then disaster struck. Our mayor, who should have been nonpartisan if he wanted to follow the law, sided with one of my rivals. (I would later find out that this happened in many towns.) During a meeting with all barangay captains and SK chairpersons, the mayor casually asked all of us to accept his decision. I was seated to his left, and I could feel sweat dampening my armpits. The barangay captains readily surrendered, while my fellow chairpersons didn't know what to say. I was defiant.

But the mayor knew how to play his cards. He threatened not to support any of my projects if I should win. Some of the barangay captains joined the mayor in tying to persuade me to drop my bid. In the end, the 16-year-old neophyte in politics was simply swept aside by the seasoned traditional politicians.

Rage filled my heart as I walked home. I hated the mayor not only because he had blocked my road to popular recognition but also because I knew that what he did was clearly a violation of the law and a rude introduction to politics for the youth. I kept asking myself: Is this the kind of leader the youth like us should emulate?

I knew that I could pursue my bid and probably win the SK Federation election, having secured the commitment of majority of the chairpersons. But prior to the elections, our school principal who is also my uncle, told me: "It's OK, son. There are better things for you. Go to UP if you pass the admission test."

I do not know what happened to me. I was still angry with the mayor, but I settled for the second highest position.

My anguish drove me to dream of becoming the mayor of my hometown (and promise not to do what our mayor did). And that has become my ultimate goal in life. I have drawn up a plan how to achieve it and I am continuously preparing myself for it.

My undergraduate paper was my first step toward that goal: I did a survey of my young town mates' attitude toward politics. In a few years, I know I will be back and exact my revenge.

In the meantime, I have realized that I would have missed so many opportunities had I gotten the top SK Federation post. I would not have gone to the University of the Philippines to pursue my tertiary education. I would have not met the people whose principles and advocacies are the same as mine. I would have not learned so much about politics and government. My perspective of leadership and public service would not have been broadened.

I am thankful too that God saved me from rotting in politics at a young age. He must have thought that it would be better for me to prepare for tougher political challenges in the future. He might have thought that I would be able to serve the people better after I have acquired more knowledge and experience. (I have met many good leaders who trained themselves under the SK, but it's true that in many communities, the SK is an incubator of dirty politics and a training ground for corrupt officials. This is a challenge to the new set of officers.)

Because of all this, I am happy that I lost. Now my future looks bright and so should that of my hometown.

Jessie Villamore J. Viloria II, 21, works as a researcher in a government institution.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Different things

"Economic growth is not development. It's not enough that the economy is growing to be able to say society is developing."

—Former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Cielito Habito

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Modern-day slave trade

WHAT IS SHOCKING IN THE Japan-Philippines Economic Partnership Agreement (Jpepa) is not the trade in toxic wastes (of which the Philippines is the primary garbage dump), but the trade in persons, specifically nurses, with the Philippine government as the chief slave trader.

By including nurses in what is essentially a trade agreement lopsided in Japan's favor, the Philippines is practically trading our immaculate nurses for stinking Japanese garbage. Nurses, like all our overseas workers, are treated by our government as "goods" or "commodities" to be exported, marketed or traded principally because of its desperate need for dollars to pay our bloated foreign debt.

I do not know of any nation aside from our country that treats its workers as goods to be exported. Emigration as a public policy emerged in our country only during the Marcos dictatorship for a four-pronged purpose: to earn dollars for payment of our burgeoning foreign debt; to excise the abscess of public outrage against the regime by encouraging the emigration of dissidents and thus prevent a social explosion, arising from, among others, lack of employment opportunities; to weaken the local labor movement; and to provide the government with another financing source for mulcting the poor and middle-class citizens through excessive recruitment fees.

Shinji Yamada, a Japanese citizen, and Leah Paquiz of the Philippine Nurses Association, in their letters to the INQUIRER editor, asserted that Japan does not need nurses as much as it is pictured by our government. If it needs nurses, all it has to do is to open its doors to qualified nurses without need of a trade agreement. Immigration is an internal policy of the state that depends upon its need for foreign labor. Thus the United States in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries opened its doors wide to immigrants from all over the world. (This strategy included kidnapping of slaves from Africa to meet its labor requirements.) But in the middle of the last century, the United States narrowed its doors for only highly educated immigrants when brains rather than brawn became more important to its economy.

Japan probably included Filipino nurses in the Jpepa not because of its acute need for them, but because the Philippine government needed the accommodation as a "sweetener" for Filipinos to accept the agreement which is humiliating and disadvantageous to the Filipino nation. Our government remains a slave trader even after slave trade had been abolished centuries ago.

—MANUEL F. ALMARIO,
Movement for Truth in History,
mfalmario@yahoo.com

Filipinos multiplying like rats

THIS REFERS TO THE STORY OF Mariannet Amper.

Yes. We will be expecting more of this suicide. At the rate Filipino babies are born (four per minute), we are populating the Philippine archipelago like rats. The Malthusian Theory is so true: our children would rather die than suffer all the seemingly hopeless situation they wake up to every day. Added to that is the corruption in all levels that will take, maybe, another millennium to correct.

I'm not sure if as a responsible and sensitive citizen, there is anything more I can do than pray and silently grieve over Mariannet's plight, knowing that I too would be so occupied with my own survival on a day-to-day basis.

—MA. ELEN SANTUA,
elenmae_23@yahoo.com

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

Needed: More funds to fight TB

I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THERE are 2,000 teachers in the Philippines suffering from tuberculosis. (INQUIRER, 10/31/07) Would that the government allot more money to enable the Department of Health to fight this contagious, airborne disease more effectively.

What about the other employees and other personnel working in public schools? I am sure, they have not gone through a medical checkup. The students should also be checked for the disease, otherwise the problem will not be properly addressed.

The disease can spread in classrooms. The government should be more serious in funding campaigns to eradicate TB in the Philippines.

—MIKE GABUCAN,
mikegabucan@yahoo.com

TREES on the Escolta are fitted with steel rings

JOE SOLIMAN, CONTRIBUTOR

Steel rings choking trees to death in Manila

WHO WILL SAVE THESE TREES? These beautiful trees were planted along Escolta corner Banquero and Burke Streets in Binondo during the previous term of Mayor Alfredo S. Lim of Manila. However, during the past term of Mayor Lito Atienza, who is now environment secretary, men from the City Hall welded rings of steel around the base of the trunks of these trees. The rings are now slowly killing the trees which are beginning to outgrow the steel rings around their expanding trunks.

Now, who will save these beautiful narra trees?

Who will cut the welded steel rings around their trunks to let them live and give beauty, fresh air and shade to the people of Manila and the millions of transients who visit Manila every day?

—JOE SOLIMAN,
spokesman,
Global Renewal of Ecology and the Environment (Green) Inc., 685 Rizal Ave.,
Barangay San Agustin,
Malabon City

Why is Comelec asking citizens to arrest missing Bedol?

COMELEC ORDERS CITIZEN'S arrest for Lintang Bedol? How hypocritical!

After months of dillydallying, the Commission on Elections now has the gall to ask us Filipino citizens to arrest Bedol. This call reeks of the cynicism, hypocrisy and immorality, which characterize the government institutions that have been bought and corrupted by Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

It exposes the diabolical intent of GMA and her evil cohorts not only to cover up their crimes but also to protect their "instruments" like Romulo Neri, Benjamin Abalos, Virgilio Garcillano and now Bedol. It also insults the intelligence of the citizenry. This action is no different from the absolute pardon that the illegitimate President granted to former President Joseph Estrada. It is a desperate attempt to salvage a doomed administration.

But the final fall of this administration is not going to come as a result of the continuing "zarzuela" in both the Senate and House of Representatives. It can only come from the vigilant, principled and united action of the majority of the Filipino people.

We say, "Enough is enough!" Let's think and move together to oust this illegitimate President and her administration.

—FR. BEN MORALEDA,
member, Kaalagad Katipunang Kristyano, 3/F St. Anthony Bldg.,
Cubao, Quezon City

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Citizens urged to get involved in barangay affairs

ASK NOT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR MARIANnet (Amper). Ask what you can do to help improve the social and economic conditions that drove her to commit suicide—and prevent others from doing the same.

Mariannet's death reminds us that we are responsible for one another and, collectively, we are responsible for the world in which we live and, that much is expected from those to whom much has been given. With this thought, I call on all my fellow Filipinos to get actively involved in the affairs of our respective barangays.

First, we must have a vision for our barangay as we have a vision for our family. And that vision is for all members of the family and the barangay to experience life in its fullness, by living for God and for others. We are all sisters and brothers under the fatherhood of God. Life in its fullness means that every barangay resident has the opportunity to fulfill his/her aspirations in life and meet his/her basic needs.

A safe, clean and wholesome environment, for instance, can be an expressed objective of every barangay—where nobody will go hungry, nobody will go out to beg, where everybody can have a decent life and a decent burial. We need a sense of community where all barangay members are committed to the welfare of one another.

Where and how do we begin?

First, every Filipino should be taught the Politics of Virtue, the Politics of Duty, the Politics of Stewardship and Good Citizenship. They should also be given basic political education, especially on their rights and responsibilities under the Local Government Code. (website: angkapatiran.org)

Second, barangay officials must create the conditions for every member to know each other, listen to and care for one another, and promote camaraderie.

Third, let every barangay member know that, under the Local Government Code, "as a basic political unit, the barangay serves as the primary unit of government policy, plans, programs, projects and activities in the community and as a forum wherein the collective view of the people may be expressed, crystallized and considered, and where disputes may be amicably settled."

The barangays get substantial funding from various sources (e.g., Internal Revenue Allotment, 25 percent from real property taxes, 35 percent from natural wealth extraction, 50 percent from community tax).

Fourth, every barangay should have its socioeconomic profile showing its total population, territorial limits, the number of families, number of children in each family, number of those going to schools (elementary and high school); and identifying its skilled workers, whether unemployed and employed, (e.g. drivers, carpenters, plumbers). Other vital information should be included that will enable barangay members to help one another.

Theologian Karl Barth once said: "To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world."

—NANDY PACHECO,
founder and chairman emeritus,
Ang Kapatiran Party,
nandypacheco@gmail.com

Road trauma as public health problem

THE TRAGIC VEHICULAR CRASH THAT TOOK the life of Dulce Saguisag and injured her husband, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, once again brings to the fore the issue of road trauma as a public health problem. These incidents occur with sickening regularity; except that, this time, prominent people are involved.

In the 14th century, the plague was considered a divine retribution for infidel behavior. Plague regulations in the French city of Rouen in 1507 prohibited gambling, drinking and other wanton conduct likely to arouse the wrath of God. Though plagues have practically disappeared in most developed countries today, we now have a similar epidemic of trauma, inflicted or "accidental," which shows no sign of receding in the foreseeable future.

Trauma can be considered a non-contagious mass disease of epidemic proportions; in other words, it is a public health problem. There is an increasing awareness of the need to create and maintain a safe environment as a modern approach to injury control, the same way that pasteurizing milk, disposing sewage efficiently and spraying mosquito breeding grounds are effective against infectious diseases. Trauma control, therefore, may be achieved by using the same approach for the control of infectious diseases namely: description and classification, epidemiologic investigation, identification of vectors, development of specific countermeasures and administrative action enlightened by an understanding of the disease process.

Maintaining a safe environment requires safer highways and traffic control systems; engineering modifications on motor vehicles aimed at reducing the causes and frequency of error as an approach to injury prevention; a stop to the indiscriminate issuance of driver's licenses; penalizing drunk driving; avoiding cell phone use while driving; and using the seatbelt—the list is endless.

It is unfortunate that road trauma as a major public health problem is still largely attributed to fate and faulty behavior. Although mankind has made great strides on surgical approaches to and techniques in handling trauma, our human responses to epidemics have changed very little over the past 600 years.

Of course, not every accident can be prevented. But invoking God's wrath too often presupposes the uselessness of His principal creations—us.

—JOSE LUIS J. DANGUILAN, M.D.,
Department of Surgery,
UP College of Medicine

Joker Arroyo's 'obscurantist' rap disputed

I BEG TO DISAGREE WITH SEN. JOKER ARroyo. In his article titled "Why, who is going after the Inquirer?" (INQUIRER, 10/13/07), he branded Amando Doronila as INQUIRER's career obscurantist.

On the contrary, I consider Doronila to be a progressive and very perceptive opinion writer, like INQUIRER columnists Conrado de Quiros, Manuel L. Quezon III and Raul Pangalangan.

—CRISOSTOMO B. VILAR,
vice mayor,
Pagsanjan, Laguna

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DENR order to resume logging ends 18-yr rest of Samar forest

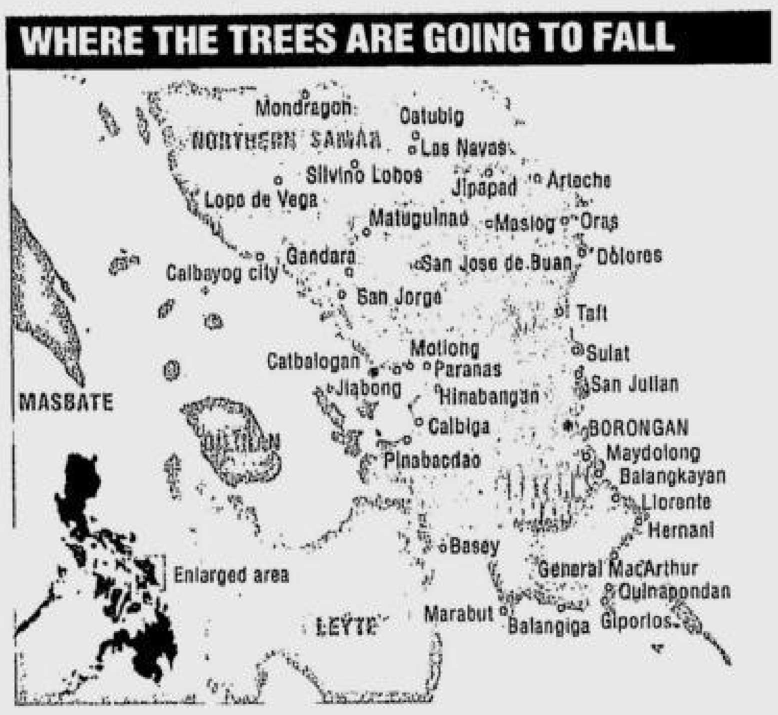
By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE Department of Environment and Natural Resources has allowed a big logging firm to resume its operations in Samar after this was stopped in 1989 when the government declared a logging moratorium on the island.

Ricardo Tomol, regional technical director for forest protection and resource management of the DENR here, said the Timber License Agreement (TLA) of Basey Wood Industries Inc. (Baswood) was extended by six years to allow it to cut the amount of trees that it could have cut during the moratorium.

Tomol said the area where Baswood would be allowed to cut trees was reduced by 30 percent.

WHERE THE TREES ARE GOING TO FALL



Seventy percent of the area is already under the Samar Island Natural Park, a protected area.

Are there still trees?

President Macapagal-Arroyo had declared on Aug. 13, 2003 the 333,300-hectare SINP as a protected area.

The DENR issued a TLA for a concession area of 57,525 hectares and effective from January 1971 to June 1995 to Baswood.

Tomol said they received this week a copy of the order for the resumption of Baswood's operation from the DENR central office, which stated, among others, that the logging moratorium on Samar Island has been lifted and that Baswood's TLA has been extended by six years.

He said the order was signed by then Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes.

Tomol said technical personnel of Baswood are now in Basey town, the site of the company's concession area, for an initial inspection to see if there are still forests there.

"If they (logging firm's personnel) would say there are still sufficient trees (there) for them to operate, the DENR team will also go there to validate their timber evaluation," he said.

Enrile company

Baswood was the second, among the seven logging firms actively operating on Samar Island when the moratorium was declared, granted permits to resume logging by the DENR since 2005.

The first one was San Jose Timber Corp., which is reportedly owned by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile.

Tomol said the DENR central office used San Jose Timber as a precedent in the issuance of a resumption order to Baswood.

In August 2005, then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor allowed San Jose Timber to resume its operation in 95,770 hectares of forest lands in Samar Island and extended its logging permit by 16 years.

That development, however, was met with strong opposition from the people of the three Samar provinces.

The Church also opposed San Jose Timber's planned resumption of operation, saying that circumstances leading to the lifting of the logging moratorium in Samar "had not been transparent and the processed flawed" and that the law was "applied without due consideration for the poor to please the powerful."

A joint pastoral statement of bishops and clergy of Leyte and Samar that opposed San Jose Timber's reopening of logging operation.

A SMALL replica of the Statue of Liberty stands proud on a hill inside Camp John Hay, a former American rest and recreation center in Baguio City. ELIZABETH LOLARGA

US help offered to restore Baguio relics

BAGUIO CITY—THE POOR STATE of American relics still standing in the summer capital has convinced the US Embassy to help the city government restore or rebuild them in time for the centennial celebration of Baguio in 2009.

Acting Mayor Daniel Fariñas said US Ambassador Kristie Kenney offered to participate in centennial activities after learning of the conditions of American cemeteries left untended for years.

Kenney and her staff were in Baguio for a three-day working visit this week.

The embassy's support is crucial because the American colonial government built the city in 1909, said Narciso Padillà, executive director of the Baguio Centennial Commission.

The Teachers' Camp, which is celebrating its centennial next year, was also built by the American colonial government.

"It would be very difficult to celebrate the centennial without acknowledging [the city's] American roots," Padilla said.

Fariñas said embassy officials were alerted to the deterioration of old cemeteries outside Camp John Hay, a former US rest and recreation camp until the US military turned it over to the country in the early 1990s.

The cemetery grounds have been used as pastureland by residents living in the area. Many of the metal crosses on the graves have been stolen.

But the Bases Conversion Development Authority and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority have not come to terms as to which agency has jurisdiction over the cemeteries, city officials said.

The abandoned cemeteries are located in forest lands that these agencies oversee.

Fariñas said he intends to present the embassy with local conservation projects.

The commission asked the embassy to finance the conservation of a building façade left standing along Session Road. *Vincent Cabreza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Unscrupulous traders blamed for Albay rice shortage

LEGAZPI CITY—PROVINCIAL officials concerned about Albay's rice shortage are blaming some traders who have "remilled and re-bagged" National Food Authority (NFA) rice intended for the poor to sell at commercial prices.

Board member Celso Aytona said the irregularities happened in Tabaco City, involving half of the wealthy Chinese-Filipino traders.

One businessman, he said, was allegedly shipping 5,000 bags of NFA rice to Mindanao monthly and even tried to bribe him in exchange for his withdrawal of the 1,000-bag rice allocation from the grains agency.

Vice Gov. Brando Sael affirmed Aytona's claim, saying half of NFA rice coming from the central office was being sold at higher prices.

Gov't version

The NFA's provincial manager, Eden Redillas, however, claimed that the release of NFA rice to authorized outlets was being regulated and its distribution in the province monitored daily.

Redillas said the shipment of 5,000 bags of rice to Mindanao monthly could not be easily done since shippers of more than 1,000 bags of rice would have to seek permit from the NFA office.

She asked the provincial board to identify any NFA employees involved in the alleged irregularity so she could initiate action.

"First, we would have to determine if they are indeed NFA employees because there were cases in the past when fictitious NFA employees communicated with traders in Iriga City," Redillas said.

Albay is suffering a year-round rice deficit of around 1.4 million bags—the biggest in five years—due to the series of typhoons and other calamities that hit the province late last year. Rice fields devastated by the typhoons have not yet been fully rehabilitated, Redillas said.

No water

Destroyed irrigation systems have also deprived water supply to rice plantations.

Heavy rains during the rice crops' flowering stage could have caused low fertilization, the NFA official said.

The biggest rice deficits of 807,000 bags were reported in the second district, which is generally not rice-producing. The district covers Legazpi, Daraga, Camalig, Manito and Rapu-Rapu.

The first district was short by 411,000 bags, while the third district, considered the rice granary of Albay, was only 148,000 bags short.

Albay had 50,000 bags of rice stockpiled on Thursday—good for only four days, Redillas said.

Some 150,000 bags of Thailand rice were expected to arrive in Tabaco last week and 160,000 more bags of Vietnamese rice on Nov. 2 to fill in the rice gap. *Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

SETTLERS at a relocation site for victims of Supertyphoon "Reming" get their share of rice and viand given by a US-based group of Albay natives. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Seized family resorts to 'amparo'

LUCENA CITY—AFTER MORE THAN TWO weeks of futile search in different military camps in Quezon province, relatives of four missing persons—including a two-month-old infant, have decided to seek a "writ of amparo" from the Supreme Court, a militant human rights group said Wednesday.

"We appeal to Chief Justice Reynato Puno and to whoever of the 13 justices who will get the case, to grant these families the justice they are seeking for their loved ones," Doris Cuario, secretary general of Karapatan-Southern Tagalog, said in a statement furnished the INQUIRER.

Cuario said they were also praying that the writ of amparo that was proven effective in a Mindanao case was not just a showcase of the government but a true instrument in protecting the people, especially the victims.

The four missing persons, according to Karapatan, were allegedly abducted in the Bondoc Peninsula area by armed men believed to be government soldiers on Oct. 28 and have since been missing.

But the military has denied the charge and accused the human rights group of dishing out rebel propaganda.

Cuario identified the four as Edwin Malapote, his daughter Edwinalyn and her husband Primo Reduta and their baby boy.

"The government must not disregard or neglect this case. More so, the Armed Forces of the Philippines, especially the 76th Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army, must answer this," Cuario said.

She said the abduction was not only messing up the lives of the victims but also ruining the lives of their worried loved ones.

Cuario said the families of the missing persons sought the intercession of the Supreme Court, hoping that filing the writ would compel the military to surface and turn their loved ones over to proper authorities, if ever criminal charges had been filed against them.

"The Malapotes are very concerned over the situation of the baby," Cuario said.

In the past, relatives of missing persons petitioned the court for a writ of *habeas corpus* to compel concerned agency to produce the missing person.

More often, the person issued the writ denied the missing person was in their custody. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Benguet sues Napocor for ₱198-M unpaid tax

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE provincial government is staking its tax claims in court over the property of the National Power Corp. (Napocor) and the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) for the operation of dams in the province.

Gov. Nestor Fongwan on Tuesday said the province is looking forward to collect P198 million in taxes from Napocor—P116 million in national wealth tax for the operation of the San Roque Multipurpose Dam in Pangasinan, P56 million in franchise taxes and P26 million in real estate taxes for the operation of Binga Dam.

He said the provincial government is willing to make a legal claim on state-owned power generation plants that have been put on auction by Psalm, which included Ambuklao Dam in Bokod town and Binga Dam in Itogon town.

On Monday, the provincial legal office filed the first civil case against Napocor and Psalm before the regional trial court here in a bid to collect P56.9 million in franchise taxes since 2001.

Fongwan said the province was forced to file the suit following the refusal of Napocor to admit their franchise taxes for Binga.

"Napocor paid P2 million in real estate taxes but that is only a drop in the bucket compared to what the government corporation actually owed the province," he said.

Fongwan earlier wrote Napocor asking for records showing the customers of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) for electricity sold from its sub-station in Barangay Beckel here.

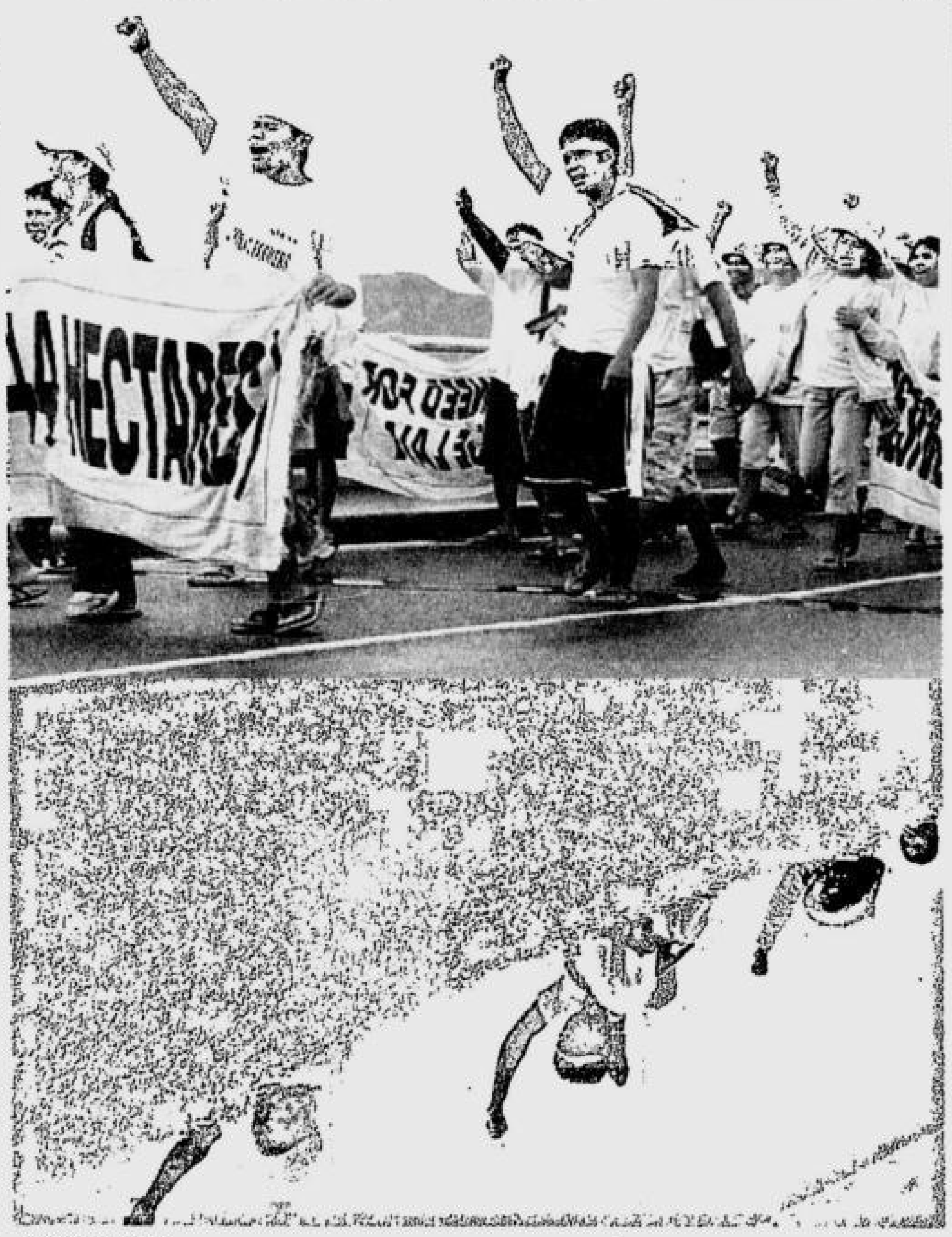
He also asked Napocor to immediately release at least 20 percent of the P116 million that it owed Benguet in national wealth taxes from the operation of San Roque.

The list of customers would determine the amount of taxes based on the amount of power sales Napocor made from 1992 to 2007.

Napocor and Transco have yet to comply with the demands, prompting Fongwan to order the provincial legal office to study the filing of another suit.

"Benguet, through the Agno River, is the only source of water flowing to the San Roque Dam and thus the province is entitled to the national wealth tax with respect to the power generated by the dam," Fongwan said.

The P56-million collection suit was for Napocor's franchise taxes for Binga Dam since 2001. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*



STRUGGLE NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

Farmers from Sumilao, Bukidnon walk along the Maharlika Highway in Barangay Travesia, Guinobatan town in Albay on Wednesday. The Sumilao farmers have been walking for a month and four days and are on their way to Manila to regain land that they claim to be their ancestral property but was sold to a San Miguel company.

'Pawikan' conservation gets boost

By Gerald Gene Querubin
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BOAC, MARINDUQUE—ENDANGERED marine turtles locally called "*pawikan*" have found another safe haven in this island-province, thanks to high public awareness of conservation efforts.

This year alone, fishermen from various villages have turned over 11 of these creatures to concerned authorities.

According to the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (Penro), the turtles were caught or got entangled with fishing nets or found along the shores.

"Fishermen immediately contact and inform us if a *pawikan* is caught," said Danilo Querijero, Penro head. His office sends personnel to the areas to document the turtles' presence.

"We tag the turtles and then release them immediately back to the sea," he added. Among them were nine green sea turtles, a Hawksbill and an Olive Ridley.

Querijero said the presence of the sea turtles indicated that the seawaters "are still clean and are rich in biodiversity, with available small fishes that serve as their food."

They were hatched along the shorelines years ago and "are coming back to copulate and lay eggs," he said.

Marine turtles travel great distances to feed and grow. As hatchlings, they imprint the magnetic field of the area and always go back to where they were hatched after 25 to 30 years to copulate and lay eggs.

In some communities, especially in underdeveloped countries, however, the turtles are hunted in the open sea or slaughtered while laying eggs on the beaches. Turtle meat and eggs are collected as food.

Rice pests land on Aurora

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Black bugs have started damaging rice farms in seven of eight towns in Aurora since last week, a situation never encountered before in the coastal province, the provincial agriculturist said on Tuesday.

"It's positive. We've discovered them last week," Adriano Necesito, director of the Department of Agriculture in Aurora, said.

He said laboratory test done by the regional crop protection unit of the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) in Nueva Ecija confirmed the specimens to be black bugs. These suck the grains of palay, causing these to wilt and die.

Traces of these were found in parts of San Luis, Ma. Aurora, Baler, Dinalungan, Casiguran, Dilasag and Dipaculao towns.

A team has been sent to check if the bugs have reached Dingalan, which is separated by mountains from central Aurora, Necesito said.

Samples taken showed these to be a centimeter in size. Their presence is given away by the bad odor they emit, he said.

The extent of the damaged rice lands is still being determined. Aurora has about 8,000 hectares of rain-fed rice farms. More than 3,000 hectares are irrigated.

Necesito has begun emergency measures with farmers on instructions of Gov. Bellaflor Angara-Castillo.

Light trapping, a scheme where the bugs are drawn to a lit lamp partly submerged in a pail of water; water management where the larvae of the bugs are let to bred in canals and later drowned; and deep plowing of soil are among the efforts undertaken by farmers since Monday.

Technicians have launched an information campaign in villages or through radio broadcast from the capital of Baler.

Necesito said the provincial DA needs an initial P1 million to keep the preventive efforts going. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Davao City arch enemies link each other to scams

DUTERTE

NOGRALES

DAVAO CITY—Two of President Macapagal-Arroyo's allies here unleashed a barrage of insults against each other, threatening to escalate the word war into one that would be deadlier.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles made public what people close to them had known all along—they are at war.

Duterte, in a TV program here, challenged Nograles to a fight, the image he painted reminiscent of cowboy rivals challenging each other to a gun duel.

"Do you really want a fight? I am giving it to you. You just choose (the kind of fight). What do you want? I'm going to slap you, you bull ... st," said Duterte in the TV program, his object of anger being Nograles' recent statements linking the mayor to a mining operator that had been rumored to be involved in several killings in the city.

"I can have you hit in front of the President," Duterte said, addressing himself to Nograles, who he called Boy in the program.

Nograles said he was unfazed.

"Frankly, Mayor Duterte does not scare me. And he can't scare me because I won't allow it," the congressman said in a text message.

Duterte also directed his anger at Nograles' suggestions that the mayor's intelligence funds were being misused.

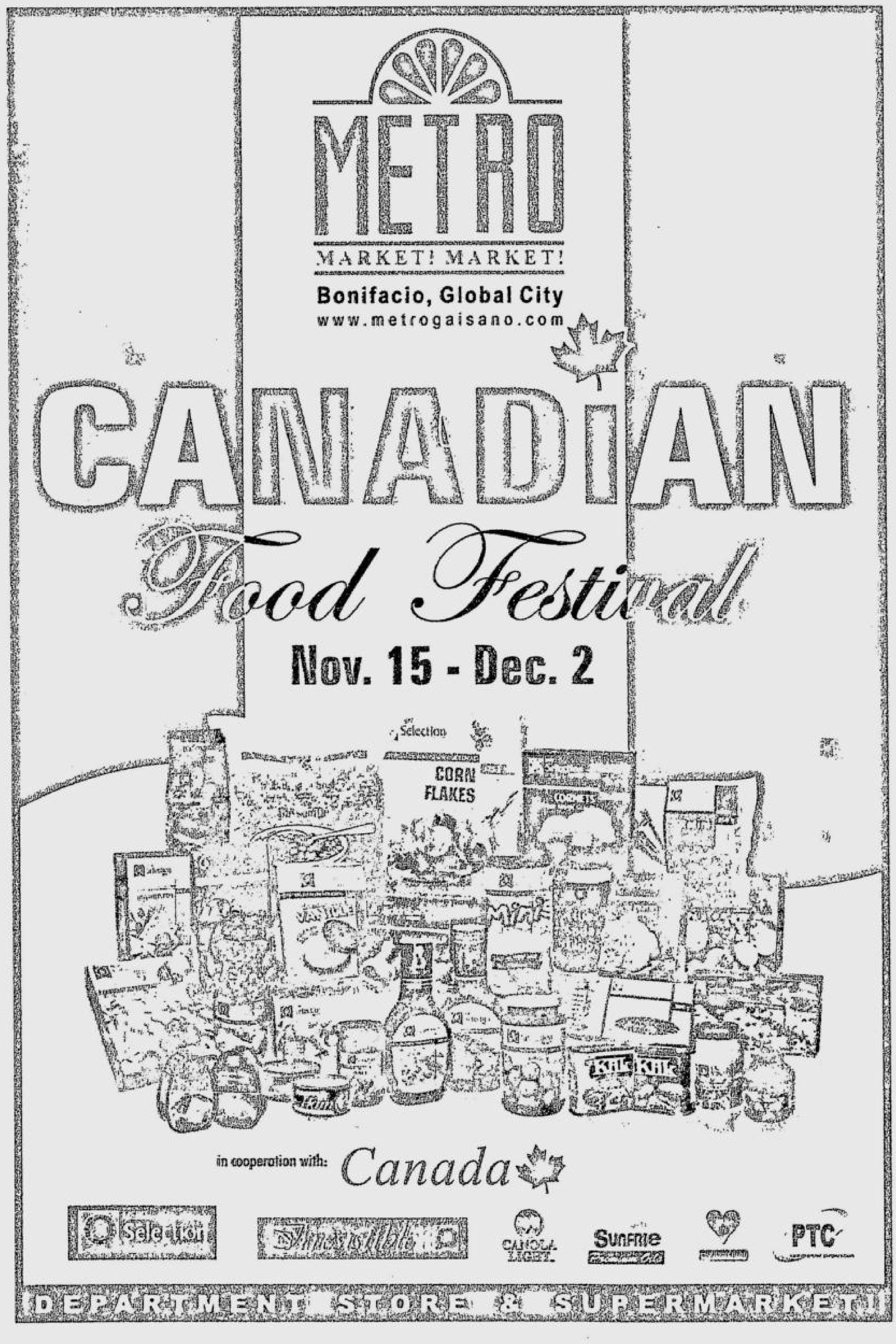
"Eat all of these, Boy. Drink the gallons of gasoline I have given to the police and the military," Duterte said in the TV program.

Duterte went on to list down what he considers Nograles' irregularities.

The mayor particularly attacked billboards of projects that bore the congressman's face.

Duterte went on to link the congressman to a TV host and revived what has become known here as the "Burlesk King" episode.

Nograles said Duterte was furious at him because he wanted the use of the mayor's intelligence funds and his relationship with the mining operator, Tata Sala, investigated. *Jeffrey M. Tupas, Mindanao Bureau*



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Returning GI recalls war massacre

By Redempto Anda
Puerto Princesa City

EXCEPT for a portal that still exists, the POW camp looks different. "There were six coconut trees in the middle of this place. The Japanese would tie up the prisoners there and beat them with wooden planks for everyone to see," Don Schloat says as he strolls at Plaza Cuartel.

PHOTOS BY REDEMPTO ANDA

NO GUN SALUTES WELCOMED Don Schloat as he disembarked from a commercial flight and stepped on Palawan soil again after 63 years. Neither were there streamers, military honors or flag-waving schoolchildren.

Had the American alerted authorities of his coming, these would have been standard greetings.

But Schloat had decided that he just wanted to see where it all happened: For more than two years, he had been held at a small prisoners-of-war (POW) camp now called Plaza Cuartel, on that fateful day when the *kempeitai* (Japanese military police) ended it all in a massacre largely overlooked by history.

At 86, Schloat is the only person remaining among 11 men who had survived the massacre and told the story of war's brutality.

On Dec. 14, 1944, over 150 American POWs were herded by the *kempeitai* into bunkers to die by burning and machinegun fire.

Most of them died in the pandemonium inside the two tunnels soaked with gasoline and set on fire. Others who tried to escape were bayoneted to slow death or ripped by bullets.

Schloat was lucky to have left the camp before it happened.

He was captured by the Japanese while trying to escape with two other prisoners, was beaten and transferred to the Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa to face a Japanese court-martial.

All of those who died he knew, even the few who had lived to tell the horrific tale.

"They were all young men and they were all hoping to survive. When I asked who wanted to come with me to try and escape, most didn't want to risk it. We knew the war was going to end soon and everyone just wanted to wait it out. I never expected the tragedy to happen," he recalled.

SCHOOLchildren admire Schloat's war medals.

Plaza Cuartel

A small bronze marker with the names of Schloat and 10 other POWs who had survived the massacre was erected on top of what used to be the main underground bunkers occupied by the prisoners.

"I still remember all the details, but the emotion seems to have died down in me after all those years. I'm just pleased to make it back here to take a look at the place," he told the INQUIRER.

Schloat took his time to walk around what is now a quiet garden frequented by schoolchildren.

"There were six coconut trees in the middle of this place. The Japanese would tie up the prisoners there and beat them with wooden planks for everyone to see," he said.

Except for the main portal to the camp that had been preserved, Schloat said the place had completely changed. Gone were the garrisons and the three main barracks where over 300 POWs had been housed. Also gone were the barbed wires surrounding the camp that overlooked Puerto Bay.

"You came in through the front gate and there were two towers on either side that ran parallel the road that went down the middle. There was another barracks at the end of it but they were connected with foot rails," he said.

"I would stand here in the morning to smell the breeze and look out to the sea," he said, pointing at the mangroves where he tried to hide during his escape.

Hard labor

They were not allowed to intermingle with the villagers, the American said. "That was a big no-no. If you got caught trying to speak to a local, they would kill you."

Every morning, the prisoners were hauled into trucks and brought to the other end of town to work on the airstrip of what is now the city's international airport.

"Yes, we built that strip with forced labor. We had nothing but picks and shovels, and they had to be accounted for every afternoon when we got back to the camp because the Japanese made sure we did not use them as weapons," Schloat said.

Beautiful place

In the two years he had spent in Palawan, the veteran said he never realized how pretty the place was outside camp. For two days, he toured Puerto Princesa and its outskirts, and marveled at the natural beauty he never witnessed and enjoyed as a prisoner.

"This is a very beautiful place and I have met some very nice people," he told Dr. Teresita Salva, president of the Palawan State University, during a brief tour of a local campus.

While at Plaza Cuartel, Schloat was helped by schoolchildren in etching a piece of paper on the marker to bring home.

Before leaving, the American stood at where he used to stand every morning. He breathed the same air that he breathed over 60 years ago. "It's still the same aroma," he said, and walked on.

100-year-old Bicol veteran remembers atrocities of war

By Ephraim Aguilar
Naga City

FELIXBERTO Racadag Sr. (right) with his buddies in the US Army in Germany.

PHOTO REPRODUCTION BY EPHRAIM AGUILAR

THE PORTRAIT OF A STURDY SOLDIER IN A crisp, buttonholed uniform in the living room wall bears little resemblance to Felixberto Racadag Sr., now wearing a white *camisa chino* and stooped on his wheelchair.

The silver-haired Racadag, however, has retained a regal bearing as he vividly recounts how he survived World War II as a soldier.

Dr. Erlinda Gonzales-Belleza, museum curator of Legazpi City in Albay, considers priceless the accounts of war veterans like Racadag. She recently visited the old man in his retirement home in Naga City to document the experiences of Bicolano war heroes who fought against the Japanese.

RACADAG shows one of his war medals.

EPHRAIM AGUILAR

The man, who turned 100 in August, smiled as Belleza showed him copies of old Japanese songs that the invaders forced their Filipino captives to memorize and sing.

His countenance faded as he recounted what happened to those who were not able to sing the songs correctly—they were slapped hard or bayonet-stabbed and were given *"kangkong"* (swamp spinach) for food if not denied food rations.

War accounts needed

Not many people know that Bicol played a significant role in the country's liberation from the Japanese forces during World War II, Belleza said. Only a handful of historical accounts exist, which narrate the martyrdom and heroism of the Bicolanos during the landing of American soldiers in Legazpi on April 1, 1945, she said.

The landing served as the focal point in the Allied sweep of the entire region.

Belleza said Bicolano historians had failed to write even the few existing accounts on the heroism of the local fighters.

"Many of our history books depicting the liberation was written by either an American author or a historian who is not a Bicol native," she said.

She said that it was high time that this episode be rewritten—this time, from the point of view of the Bicolano themselves who had been there when places were bombed and when captives were abused and tortured.

US Army

Born on Aug. 22, 1907, Racadag was the seventh of eight children of Bernardino Racadag and Praxedes Pancho. He had wanted to become a teacher but wishing to take his family out of poverty, he decided to join the the Philippine Scouts in 1926 which gave him P18 per month.

Joining also meant enlisting in the US Army, he said, and he had to endure being away from his family for long periods of time.

Racadag said discipline and courtesy were values taught in the rigorous military training.

When the war against the Japanese broke out, he was one of those who engaged in battle. He remembered having to walk from a camp in Camarines Norte to Legazpi, now a four-hour drive on concrete road.

He said the soldiers would pitch tents on the sides of the trail whenever they had to eat or rest.

Racadag had also faced challenges common to guerrilla fighters.

Ramon Estor, 81, president of the veterans federation of the Philippines in the 2nd District of Albay, said that as Japanese atrocities increased, guerrilla units were organized in the localities.

As a guerrilla, Estor remembered fighting without battle gear and modern weaponry. The natives relied on food packs and ammunitions being dropped by the Americans from helicopters to their transit camps.

Death March

Racadag was among more than 75,000 American and Filipino soldiers in the Bataan Death March. It was one of his most bitter war memories.

Starting out in Mariveles town on the southern end of the Bataan Peninsula on April 9, 1942, the prisoners of war were forced to march 88 kilometers to San Fernando in Pampanga, then taken by substandard rail cars to Capas town in Tarlac, from where they walked the final 13 km to Camp O'Donnell.

Some 10,000 Filipino and 650 American prisoners died before they could reach the camp, many of them from disease, starvation, dehydration, heat prostration, untreated wounds and wanton execution.

Racadag said that it would be fortunate if the prisoners could be fed once a day with salted rice balls thrown at them. To quench their thirst, they would drink even from dirty water sources along the trail, he said.

Racadag was struck by what appeared to be malaria but was able to cheat death.

Atrocities

Some of the prisoners were beheaded, shot, stabbed with bayonets, raped, gutted (bellies cut open and left to die), beat with rifle butts, and deprived of food and water. Those who fell and stopped marching from weakness or as a protest, were killed.

When Belleza asked the old man what made him strong in those tough times when he was being mistreated and away from his family, he cried. He simply pointed his finger upwards—a gesture to indicate divine guidance.

After the war, Racadag lived in the United States as a soldier and reached other places like Germany. He was able to send all his nine children to school, most of whom are now professionals abroad.

Belleza stressed the need to gather accounts from the few war veterans still alive.

Estor said 12 war veterans died from September to October alone in the second district of Albay. Many have died of old age or because of lack of financial support and medical services, he said.

PNP: Akbar was target; Basilan politics eyed

From page A1

"We are not totally saying he is the only target," he said, adding that investigators were still ascertaining the supposed threats on Akbar.

Directional

Director Geary Barias, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, likewise said Akbar was the "likely target" of the attack because of his position relative to the bomb.

Asked whether the explosion was a terror attack, Barias said: "It looks like an attack, and the possible target is Akbar."

But Romulo Asis, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation's Anti-Terrorism Division, said that while the powerful explosion was "directional" and "controlled," it was premature to say that Akbar was the target.

"There is still no evidence to prove that he was the target; it's too soon to say that. Although he (Akbar) was the hardest hit, we have yet to determine if the explosive was really intended for him," Asis told reporters, adding:

"[The bomb went off] in his direction, but it could also be a coincidence: It happened that he was just there."

Politics

In Isabela City, Akbar's kin expressed the belief that he was the actual target. But they said they would not speculate on who was behind the attack.

Isabela Mayor Cherrylyn Akbar, one of the lawmaker's four wives, said her husband's death had something to do with politics.

"But we want to think first and assess the situation. We will issue a statement later on," she said.

Chris Puno, Akbar's spokesperson and information officer of the Basilan provincial government, said he could not think of any other target than his boss. "The bomb was really intended for him," Puno said, adding that politics was the most likely motive.

"We already have some suspects, but it's not yet time to reveal their identities," he said.

Unkaya Pukan Mayor Joel Maturan said the Akbar camp was also eyeing the possible role of the Abu Sayyaf in the attack.

"We already have an idea—politics and the Abu Sayyaf," Maturan said. "Abu Sayyaf bandits could not have entered Congress if there was no politician behind them."

Basilan Gov. Jum Akbar, the lawmaker's first wife, said what had really hurt the family was the fact that her husband was killed in an area where the security was supposed to be tight.

"Why there? How come it happened there?" she asked.

Farouk Madjirul, Akbar's most trusted bodyguard in Isabela, said the Akbar camp was still in mourning but definitely knew who was behind the explosion.

'Personality-oriented'

Barias said the target of the attack could not have been the House as an institution: "If that were the case, the bomb would just have been left in one corner, with just the timing device and the explosive."

He said the mere fact that the bomb was detonated by remote control indicated that there was a target.

"It's personality-oriented because Representative Akbar seemed to be the closest to the bomb. The bombers could have waited until Akbar was close to the bomb before detonating [it]," Barias said.

Razon said there was "no basis" to say the explosion was part of a plot to destabilize the government.

Both he and Barias admitted that there were lapses in the security of the Batasan Pambansa complex. *(See story on Page A4.)*

Barias said a flea market at the south wing lobby was "contributory" to the lowering of security in the area because it allowed people to come and go.

Senior Supt. Magtanggol Gatdula, director of the Quezon City Police District (QCPD), said investigators had interviewed House Sergeant-at-Arms Bayani Fabie.

Gatdula quoted Fabie, a retired general, as saying that the House security force was "not so strict" with motorcycles "because most of the employees use motorcycles [to get to work]."

Motorcycle riders

A source from the QCPD, who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media, told the INQUIRER that two men riding tandem on a motorcycle were seen speeding out of the Batasan complex just before the explosion.

The source said operatives had been fielded to seek out the motorcycle riders.

The NBI's Asis said the possibility that the explosion was a terror attack was not being ruled out.

He said NBI bomb experts and chemists had gathered fragments from the blast site.

"As of now, we have yet to establish the purpose of the attackers, and who was/were the target and other things. We cannot speculate," said Asis. "We don't want to issue premature or haphazard findings."

Razon said the entire police force assigned to the Batasan complex, as well as the Senate complex in Pasay City, had been relieved and replaced with a company from the elite PNP Special Action Force.

He said that as a result of the explosion, the PNP in Metro Manila was on full alert, and, in other areas nationwide, on heightened alert.

Evidence

Razon also said the bomb had been planted on one of the motorcycles parked near the south wing entrance and activated by a cellular phone, parts of which were found around 15 meters from the blast site.

"We now have evidence of a bomb, the cell phone [as triggering mechanism], the pieces of nails used as shrapnel. We are still continuing our investigation," he said.

Despite the claim of a certain Abdul Musaf that the Abu Sayyaf was behind the bombing, Razon said the PNP was not taking this "hook, line and sinker."

Gatdula said investigators were zeroing in on the motorcycle, a Honda XRM 125, used to deliver the bomb.

"According to our postblast investigation, the IED (improvised explosive device) came from one of the motorcycles because these were the ones parked near the area," Razon said.

Gatdula said at least two motorcycles were parked in the area at the time of the explosion. Police have established that one of the motorcycles belonged to Cesar Padlan, a House cameraman.

The other motorcycle is now the subject of police investigation. "But the body number has been removed and the engine number tampered with," Gatdula said.

He said police were able to get a barcode from the motorcycle, and were checking it with the manufacturer.

He also said police were examining footage from two closed-circuit television cameras near the blast site—one pointed at the exit bay and another at the parking lot.

'Sole power'

Even before the official medical confirmation of Akbar's death on Tuesday night at the FEU Hospital in Quezon City, Puno, his spokesperson, was sending text messages and calling some members of the media to say: "It was, by all indications, an assassination attempt, and Wahab was the target."

"He is the sole power here; the Akbars are the ones in control of Basilan. *Alam mo na* (You know), it's a domino effect. There is somebody, he can pay, he can make this happen to Wahab," said Puno, his voice high and tense.

Apart from Akbar's first wife (the governor of Basilan) and second wife (mayor of Isabela), his relatives or allies are town mayors, according to Puno.

His third wife sought another mayoral post but lost. (His fourth wife is a Syrian.)

Yesterday morning, Puno was more circumspect in responding to the question of whether the Akbars had pinpointed the possible mastermind of the attack.

"No angle yet to blame anyone, although it could be someone who was his mortal enemy," Puno said.

He refused to give a name, but said: "It's an open secret here in Basilan."

Political rival

One of the publicly known political opponents of Akbar in Basilan is former Rep. Gerry Salapuddin.

But he told the INQUIRER: "We do not know what happened, or who did it. I am here living in silence in the province. I was not there when it happened. We can only assume that there are lots of angles here."

In talking of possible angles, Salapuddin said he would not be surprised if his name was dragged into the supposed assassination of Akbar. In fact, he said, his allies in Basilan had warned him of this possibility.

"We are anticipating that fingers will be pointed at political rivals of Wahab," Salapuddin said. "But the public should be reminded that Wahab was one of the founders of the Abu Sayyaf, and that he was also the one who betrayed them so he could save his own skin."

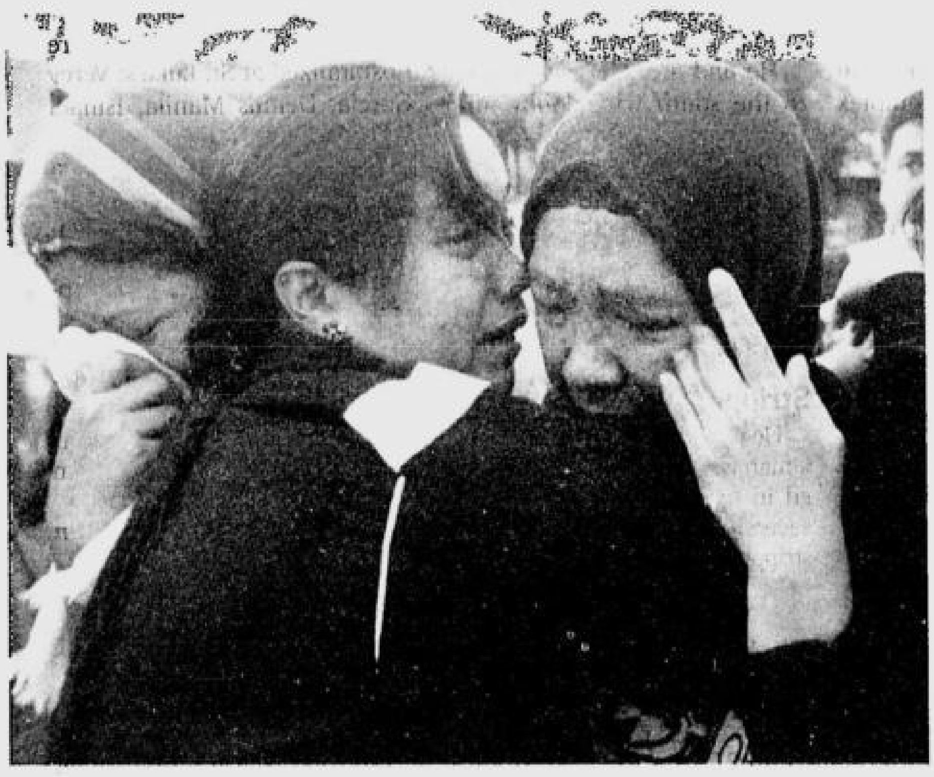
Salapuddin was governor of Basilan when the Abu Sayyaf conducted its initial terror attacks and kidnappings.

At that time, Akbar was the Abu Sayyaf's "preacher" who even fought in its first major encounter with Marine forces in Upper Kapayawan, Lantawan, Basilan—the base of the group's first major camp called Al-Madinah (gateway to heaven).

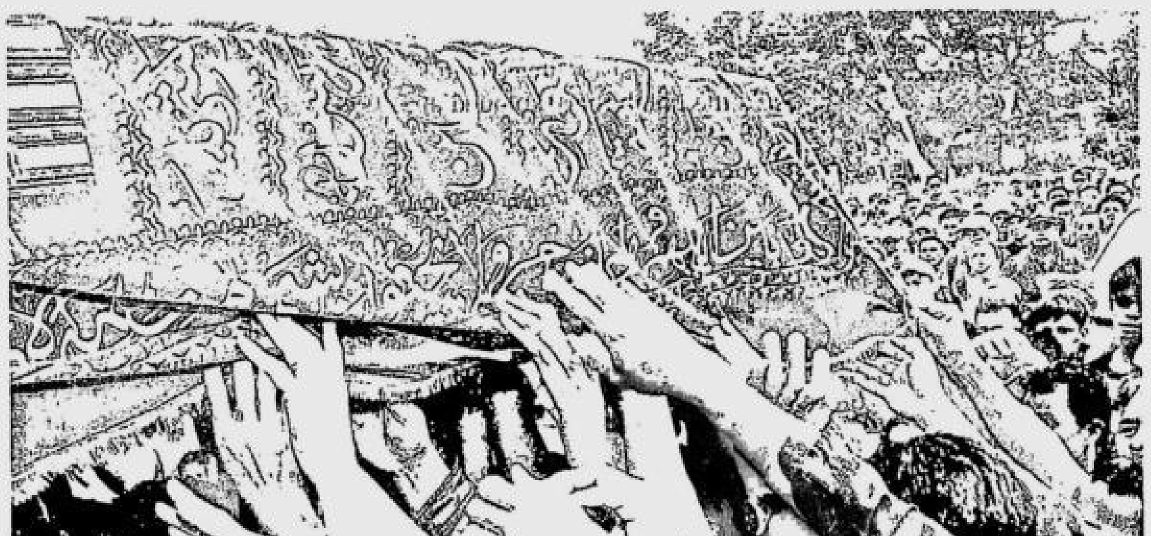
Salapuddin said there were other groups in Basilan who had a "silent grudge" against Akbar.

Strongest motive

But he added: "The Abu Sayyaf has the strongest motive. Imagine, after Wahab taught them *jihad* (holy war), it was he who would betray them, have them jailed, and even killed." *With reports from Julie Alipala, Charlie Señase, Richel Umel and Jeffrey Tupas, Inquirer Mindanao; Tina G. Santos and Jeannette I. Andrade in Manila*



THE FOUR WIVES of Representative Akbar console each other as the remains of their husband arrive in Zamboanga City on Wednesday. At the center is first wife Jum, the governor of Basilan. REUTERS



THE LAST HOMECOMING: Supporters in Basilan escort the body of Rep. Wahab Akbar to his grave on Wednesday. In keeping with Muslim beliefs, Akbar had to be buried within a day of his death. AP

Solon drew portrait of self as rebel with many faces

From page A1

their congressman, a day after he died in a bomb attack at the Batasan complex.

People in the crowd estimated at between 10,000 and 20,000 cried as they tried to clamber up the ferry, while some were visibly angry.

Even Akbar's security escorts wept, among them Farouk Madjirul, touted to be Akbar's most fearless aide.

"I lost a dear father, we all lost a very dear father," he said in the Yakan dialect.

When the wooden casket draped in green and yellow was being lowered, chants of "Allahu Akbar (God is Great)" rose from the crowd.

Mayor Cherrylyn Akbar, one of the slain lawmaker's wives, had to appeal for order when the ferry began to tilt because of the number of people wanting to get a closer look at the casket.

The casket was loaded onto a pickup truck later and brought to Barangay Sumagdang, where the colorful and controversial governor—once dubbed "the Terror of Basilan" in the media—was buried.

Headless Basilan

Basilan is now "beheaded," Unkaya Pukan Mayor Joel Maturan said. "It is as if our heads were cut too."

Even Tipo-tipo Central Mayor Tong Istarul, a known critic of Akbar, said the lawmaker's death left the people of Basilan "like chicks who had lost their mother hen."

In their grief, Akbar's four wives have found comfort in each other, relatives said.

Aside from Cherrylyn and Jum—now Basilan's governor—Akbar's other wives were Marietta and Nur-ain. With Jum Akbar, he had two children who are studying in Syria.

With Cherrylyn, Akbar had three children while he had two with Nur-ain. He and Marietta never had a child.

A double agent

In Manila, a junior military officer described Akbar as a "double agent." A more senior officer said Akbar was a "coddler" of the Abu Sayyaf until "their relationship turned sour."

The two officers said Akbar was a clever politician who was able to foster close ties with ranking military officials, among them AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Jr.

"Personally, it (his death) it will make military operations more focused in their objective since one of the meddlers is already gone. It's the meddling of politicians that is making ground commanders lose their focus," the senior officer told the INQUIRER, asking not to be identified, saying he had no clearance to speak to the media.

The officer, who had fought the Abu Sayyaf and other Islamist guerrillas in Mindanao, said Akbar acted as a "coddler" of the Abu Sayyaf.

"There were several occasions when he asked for custody of the suspected members of the ASG," he said.

The junior officer, for his part, said that Akbar had helped the military in pursuing the Abu Sayyaf.

"If you assess it strategically, he was also a loss. He was also useful to the military," the junior officer said.

But he could not help but be skeptical of Akbar's motives.

"He was almost like a double agent," the junior officer said.

Lt. Col. Jonas Lumawag, spokesperson of the Marine Corps, denied that Akbar interfered with military operations.

"I don't have any information that he meddled in operations," Lumawag said.

In fact, Lumawag said, Akbar helped the Marines retrieve the bodies of soldiers who were beheaded by the Abu Sayyaf after a bloody ambush in July.

"He was our ally being part of the government. He had helped us in our endeavors," Lumawag said in Filipino.

Last phone call

The person who last talked with Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar is not convinced he was the prime target of the bomb attack.

"Personally, I doubt if he was the target," said Sandra Cam, a longtime friend of Akbar. "If I were the assassin, I think it would be better to carry out the attack in his province."

Cam, a witness in the 2005 Senate investigation on "jueteng" operations, said she was on the phone with Akbar moments before the attack. She said he had called her up, asking her to "follow up" with Sen. Jinggoy Estrada a project for Basilan.

"We were in the middle of our conversation when I heard a very loud explosion. Then the line went dead," she said.

Minutes later, Cam said she received a text message from Akbar's staff seeking her help because the lawmaker was in bad shape.

Akbar's face was burned and swollen when Cam saw him in the hospital.

"I couldn't recognize his face anymore," according to Cam, who said she had been a friend of Akbar for 20 years.

Akbar was dismayed by allegations he was behind the beheading of 10 Marines in his province on July 11, she said.

"He would tell me, 'You know me, Sandra. I'm not like that.'"

The former Basilan governor denied links with the Abu Sayyaf bandits, referring to them in his privilege speech as "the bullshit Abu Sayyaf."

Akbar, who used to wear a thoub, a long-sleeved one-piece dress that covers the whole body, a white pilgrim's cap, and a goatee, made his mark as a charismatic preacher in Basilan.

He was the governor when US troops arrived in 2002 to train and equip Filipino soldiers battling the Abu Sayyaf. Over the years, Basilan was transformed from a terrorist hotbed into a showcase of counterterrorism cooperation and humanitarian development.

Akbar also had an array of political opponents, including one who ran against one of his wives who succeeded him as governor of Basilan.

Political rivalries in Mindanao are often solved with readily available weapons, and assassinations of politicians are common as part of long-running vendettas and feuds known as "*rido*."

On learning of his death, President Macapagal-Arroyo condoled with his first wife, Governor Jum.

His other wife, Cherrylyn, is mayor of Isabela City, while Nurin ran for mayor of Lamitan.

Other relatives, including a niece, a nephew and several cousins, also entered politics.

A member of his staff said Akbar was a picture of joy in his last hours.

He left his office after his six o'clock prayers and went to the session hall for the debates on the proposed affordable medicines measure.

"It was the best night that we had since we moved into the office," said Paul Abah, Akbar's executive secretary.

"He shared his thoughts, his vision and mission for us, for Basilan. He was even joking with us."

Abah said one reason Akbar was happy was because his special allotment release orders had finally come—for P5 million for Akbar's pet project for education in the Basilan State College and P10 million for infrastructure projects.

When the session adjourned, Akbar and his close-in staff left to board his car. He never reached his vehicle as an explosion ripped through the lobby.

In Isabela yesterday, while prayers for Akbar were being said, a downpour fell. But a large number of mourners continued praying even if they were already soaked.

While Akbar's body was being lowered to the ground, people gathered clay and molded circular objects out of it. They then threw it on the grave.

"*Parang pabaon sa paglalakbay* (A going-away present for his journey)," in-law Darry Jainuddin said. *With reports from Christian V. Esguerra, Norman Bordadora and Nash Maulana, Inquirer Mindanao*

Batasan staff tell little stories that touch the heart

From page A1

an aide of Rep. Wahab Akbar—who was also killed—died yesterday at around 4 p.m. due to complications.

Hayudini, said to be vice president of the Muslim Consumers' Association of the Philippines, had suffered third degree burns and severe leg wounds, according to the staff of St. Luke's Medical Center.

How it happened

Bustaliño was walking alongside Teves and Akbar outside the south wing to their waiting cars when the blast occurred.

"We spent her birthday at the Farm at San Benito. She treated my father, my mother and myself and Percy Garcia (one of those injured)," Bustaliño's cousin, Virginia Teves-Laurel, said in an interview at the St. Peter's Funeral Homes in Quezon City.

"She was very happy. Nobody thought something like this would happen to her," Teves-Laurel said. "I couldn't sleep last night. I was thinking about the great time we had last Saturday, and now she's dead."

Teves-Laurel is the daughter of former Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves.

On the morning of her birthday, Bustaliño and the Teves family stopped by a church in Lipa to light a candle, and then drove to the Farm at San Benito, a spa-resort at the foot of Mt. Malarayat in Lipa City.

"She was the only one who could make my father laugh," said Teves-Laurel, the former private secretary of the older Teves, and now the private secretary of the younger Teves.

Shocked parents

Bustaliño, a tourism graduate from the University of the Philippines, worked as a staff of Herminio Teves for nine years. This year, she joined the younger Teves' legislative staff.

Teves-Laurel said: "I told her one day that with all her experience in Congress, she could run for a seat in Dipolog City. She just laughed."

Bustaliño finished a master's degree in public administration at the University of the Philippines.

Her body will be flown to Dipolog today. "Her parents are still in shock," Teves-Laurel said.

The family of another fatality, Marcial Taldo, driver of party-list Rep. Luzviminda Ilagan, was just as shocked by his death.

Stuck in the van

"I had expected him to figure in a car accident, but not die in an explosion like this," Taldo's widow, Florian, said at the St. Peter Church in Quezon City.

Taldo, 54, who just started driving for Ilagan in August, was stuck inside the van parked outside the south wing of the complex when the explosion occurred. He died on the spot from multiple injuries.

The Taldos have two sons. The eldest died in an accident years ago.

After a policeman inspected the back of Representative Ilagan's van at her apartment in Fairview, Quezon City, last week, Taldo had become security-conscious, according to Charito Wenceslao, Ilagan's household help.

"Each morning, for the past several days, he'd ask me if I had watched over the vehicle and if I had not seen anybody planting a bomb. He was serious. I just laughed it off," she said.

A spark, a blast

Lorraine Grace Gallegos, Ilagan's information officer, who survived the blast with a minor foot injury, said she saw Taldo inside the van before the explosion.

Gallegos, 23, was walking toward the van with Representative Ilagan when the explosion occurred.

"We went around the van, and as I was sliding the door open [for Ilagan], there was a spark and then an explosion behind our back. It was jarring. I thought a bomb exploded from inside our van," she said.

"We dashed for safety. When I faced her (Ilagan), there was a wound in her right leg. When I turned around to face the building, everything was in flames. At around that time, Marcial was stuck inside the van. We didn't get him."

Alphie Galaites, 33, of the House committee on good government, went about her usual work at the Batasan complex yesterday, doing paper for next week's hearing.

Fely Parcon of the committee on human rights busied herself in another part of the building, but couldn't shake off her thoughts of the previous night's tragedy.

Not normal day

The eerie site of the bomb-damaged south wing lobby kept the day from being normal.

"It's like we're now in an era of bombing," Galaites told the INQUIRER.

Congressional staff members—security officers, drivers, errand boys, canteen attendants, and janitors—came in force in response to the House leadership's call for a show of defiance in the face of the bomb attack.

At 4 p.m., Speaker Jose de Venecia banged the gavel to signal the start of the plenary session. It began with a one-minute silence in remembrance of those killed.

Polio victim

Casualties like Allan Mangulabnan of the accounting department were luckier.

The explosion threw the man, a polio victim, off his cane and he crashed onto a heap of broken wooden planks that had fallen from the collapsed ceiling.

To survive, he had to crawl out of the pile with an injured foot.

Gary Agoncillo, 33, an employee of the Public Relations and Information Department, had an even more harrowing tale.

He and a companion rushed to the south wing lobby after they heard a loud explosion.

"There was blood all over. So many people were hurt," he told the INQUIRER.

With victims short of rescuers, he and his companion helped carry at least two victims into a pickup.

Stripped naked

He recalled one of the victims as a man whose leg was almost blasted in two. The other one was a severely wounded woman nearly stripped naked by the explosion.

What was left of her clothes was meshed with burnt flesh.

"It was really scary," Agoncillo said.

Doctor-lawmaker

Rep. Janette Garin of Iloilo, a medical doctor, was among the first to provide first aid to victims.

"We had to destroy the (Batasan) clinic's door because it was closed already and there were so many casualties," she told the INQUIRER at the Capitol hospital.

By her recollection, Garin handled at least seven casualties at the clinic alone.

5 victims at St. Luke's

Meanwhile, Teves has been operated on to remove shrapnels from his body, Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez told reporters.

Rodriguez said that Teves was also being treated for burns.

Ilagan was also operated on for shrapnels. Police said four other victims of the blast were hospitalized at St. Luke's: Vercy Garcia, Dennis Manila, Ismael Lim and Larry Noda.

Lim, Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza's driver, had reportedly sustained a wound in his stomach aside from wounds on his legs and arms caused by shrapnels.

Garcia, a member of Teves' staff, suffered from second degree burns while Noda, a driver of Radyo ng Bayan, was reportedly scheduled to undergo open lung surgery for shrapnel removal. *With a report from Margaux C. Ortiz*

A BOMB DID THIS: Police bomb squad examines a wrecked car parked near the south wing lobby of the Batasang Pambansa. JOAN BONDOC

MODUS: Investigators say the bomb was planted on this motorcycle in the south wing parking lot and activated by cell phone. A motorcycle bomb was used twice before by the Abu Sayyaf in General Santos City and Malagutay in Zamboanga. JOAN BONDOC

Bomb on motorcycle ...

From page A1

detonated using a cellular phone in an attack in 2004.

Pascual said the perpetrator in that attack was the extremist Abu Sayyaf.

"It is quite alarming because not only is this [being] done in Metro Manila now, but these lawless elements are also using high-tech bombs," he said.

He added that explosives detonated through cellular phones were "more accurate with their targets."

But while the Tuesday-night explosion appeared to be the handiwork of the Abu Sayyaf, Pascual declined to conclude that the bandit group was responsible for it.

He also refused to make a categorical statement that it was a terror attack, saying it was too early to tell.

Twice already

A veteran explosives investigator also said the use of a motorcycle to deliver an improvised explosive device had been done twice already in Mindanao.

Both attacks occurred in 2002, said the investigator who requested anonymity because he was governed by the secrecy rule.

According to the investigator, the Fitmart department store in General Santos City was bombed on April 21, 2002, killing 15 people and injuring 60 others.

Police said the bomb was on a tricycle, encased in a small jet pump.

The principal suspect, a certain Usman, was arrested in July of the same year in Sultan Kudarat. He was said to be a former commander of the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front, who trained in urban warfare and demolitions in Afghanistan and Libya and who later joined the Abu Sayyaf.

He was further described as a nephew of the late MILF chair Hashim Salamat.

Three months after his arrest, Usman escaped under mysterious circumstances while in the custody of the Saranggani police. He has reportedly rejoined the Abu Sayyaf.

On Oct. 2, 2002, another bomb on a motorcycle went off near an open-air restaurant just outside Camp Enrile Malagutay in Zamboanga.

"That bomb was closer to the one that exploded in Congress," the investigator said.

The explosion killed a US serviceman, a Filipino soldier and a Filipino civilian. At least 23 other people were wounded, including another US serviceman.

The American soldiers were part of a 260-member Special Operations support team doing humanitarian work after joint antiterror operations ended in July against the Abu Sayyaf, officials said.

Abu Sayyaf signature

The explosives investigator said the bomb that exploded at the Batasang Pambansa complex and those in the two attacks in Mindanao had more similarities than just the method of delivery.

The bomb at the Batasan was composed of nitroglycerin and pentaerythritoltetranitrate (PETN), he said.

Nitroglycerin is a primary ingredient of dynamite. PETN is the main ingredient of detonating cords, which are usually wrapped around dynamite sticks to serve as a booster to explosives.

Both substances are available commercially and are used mostly for quarrying and mining.

Also, the investigator said, shrapnel for the bomb consisted of nails—the signature, he said, of the Abu Sayyaf.

The same bomb ingredients were also found in the Fitmart and Malagutay explosives, the investigator said. He said the Malagutay bomb also used nails as shrapnel.

PETN as a booster and explosive was likewise used in a bomb that went off in May 2000 at the Rizal Park in Manila, the investigator said.

Second in 2 months

The explosion at the Batasan complex was the second in Metro Manila in as many months.

On Oct. 19, a blast tore through the Glorietta 2 mall in Makati City, killing 11 people and injuring more than 100. Police say it was an "accidental gas explosion," but the mall operators have rejected this theory.

Despite the two explosions, Pascual said there were no plans to deploy more soldiers in Metro Manila.

He said deploying more soldiers than were necessary would paint an image of a metropolis plunged into chaos, which the Philippine government, including the military, wanted to avoid.

The National Capital Region Command has dispatched hundreds of soldiers to certain depressed communities in Metro Manila since late last year.

The deployment was assailed by various quarters as a saturation drive in disguise.

Blast sparks deadly numbers game

From page A1

the "11/13" or the deadly blast that struck the Batasang Pambansa in Quezon City on Nov. 13.

So will there be a similar strike on "12-14" or Dec. 14? asked one text message yesterday following the Batasan explosion that killed four people, including a congressman, and wounded eight others.

As if these violent acts around the world are the deeds of one group or person, conspiracy theorists in the Philippines have generated heaps of e-mail and text messages warning Filipinos to expect more bombings.

University of the Philippines physics professor Dr. Giovanni Tapang, however, discounts such claims.

"These are plain coincidences. I think a terrorist, if he's responsible for the attack, won't be that considerate of the timing; it's his objectives that made him choose the day [in which to attack]," Tapang told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He also discredited another rumor that spread through text messages that a bomber might be targeting places following the English alphabet: As one message said, "A is 4 Ayala Ctr, B is 4 Batasang Pambansa. Wat do u think C wil b? B watchful & careful."

The Sept. 11, 2001, attacks involving hijacked planes that targeted the World Trade Center Towers and the Pentagon were blamed on the al-Qaida. More than 3,000 people were killed.

The Bali bombing, said to be authored by the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah (JI), took place in 2002. More than 200 people, many of them foreigners, were killed when a series of bombings struck the tourist district of Kuta on the Indonesian island-resort.

Ramos worry

A few days after the so-called Rizal Day bombings in the country in 1999, former President Fidel Ramos tried to amuse journalists by saying that he was worried that he would be blamed for the attacks.

This was because certain initials of the targeted places were spelling out his name, he claimed: "F" for Plaza Ferguson, "I" for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, "D" for Dusit Hotel, "E" for Edsa, and "L" for the Light Rail Transit.

Twenty-two people were killed while more than a hundred were wounded in the attacks.

According to Tapang, a credible, thorough investigation would dispel all speculations on the Batasan explosion and the one that hit the Glorietta 2 mall at Makati City's Ayala Center last month.

Contexts and motives

"We should look into the contexts, which are more reasonable motives, and not the coincidences of dates and letters. There should also be a thorough scientific investigation," said Tapang, national chair of the scientists' group Agham or the Samahan ng Nagtataguyod ng Agham at Teknolohiya para sa Sambayanan.

He warned against police investigators prematurely stating the cause of the blast and the motives behind it.

"One should first consider who's the overall beneficiary of this incident, with all the current political developments that the people's focus would surely again be diverted from," he added.

The Rizal Day bombings took place amid the impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada. The JI was also blamed for the attacks.

The Glorietta blast was initially said by police to have been a gas tank explosion. The bombing angle was seriously considered until a subsequent police investigation showed that a gas blast was the culprit.

The mall owners did not agree with the police conclusions and wanted a new, independent investigation to be conducted.

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Late SPORTS

More Sports stories on A25 to 28

Giants in 7th heaven

Purefoods dismantles Air21 for 7-0 slate

GAMES TOMORROW
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
4:50 p.m.—Magnolia vs Welcoat
7:20 p.m.—Air21 vs Barangay Ginebra

By Musong R. Castillo

PUREFOODS' EARLY SUCCESS in the Smart-PBA Philippine Cup has only made life harder for coach Ryan Gregorio.

"My job right now is to make sure that the team does not fall into that false sense of security," Gregorio said, just moments after a 100-81 rout of Air21 gave the Tender Juicy Giants a 7-0 card in the Smart PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum last night.

"It's part of my job description, to make the players realize that we have not achieved anything yet," Gregorio added, after also praising his second unit for stepping up and keeping his stars fresh for the game's crucial stages.

Peter June Simon came off the bench to score 13 points in the first 14 minutes and finish with 22 markers. Three others scored at least 13 and all but one of 12 men Gregorio utilized made contributions offensively.

"We have to develop that kind of spirit and character on our team that we will not focus on our past successes," the youthful champion coach said.

But Gregorio will not have to worry too much about complacency, since history speaks kind of teams that have started has hot as his has so far.

No team has started 7-0 in an all-Filipino conference since Mobiline in 1999 and nine of the last 11 teams since 1989 which had at least a 6-0 start in a conference have gone on to win the championship, the most recent being Alaska in the 2003 Invitationals.

Sta. Lucia won big for the second straight night, ripping an undermanned Coca-Cola side to shreds, 97-63.

The Realtors held the Tigers to 18 first half points, taking a 40-point edge into the third period on the way to rising to 3-4 overall. The loss was the fourth straight for the Tigers, who were without Alex Cabagnot and John Arigo.

Purefoods ripped open a tight game late in the first period, as the Giants held the Express scoreless from 2:51 there until the first 2:20 of the second for a 28-17 lead.

Air21 has now lost its last two games by an average of 27 points for 2-4 overall.

The scores:

First Game

PUREFOODS 100—Simon 22, R. Yap 15, J. Yap 14, Raymundo 13, Laneto 9, Adducul 8, Pingris 7, Salvador 5, Cablay 4, Sanz 2, Yee 1, Larong 0.

AIR21 81—Santos 25, Intal 17, Canaleta 11, Kramer 6, Se 6, Dimaunahan 5, Arboleda 5, De Ocampo 4, Sotto 2, Cruz 0, Baluyot 0, Chia 0.

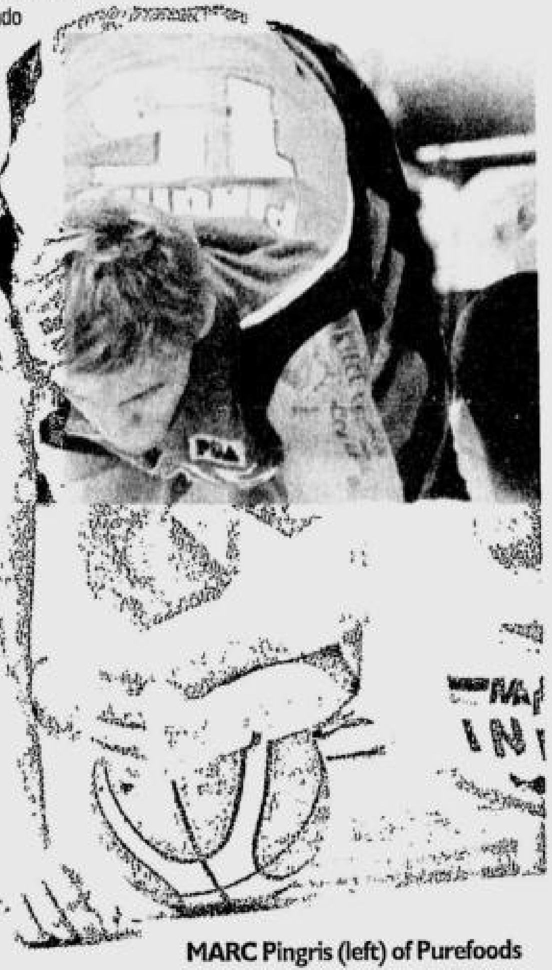
Quarters: 24-17, 42-40, 68-61, 100-81

Second Game

STA. LUCIA 97—Yeo 16, Williams 16, Omolon 11, Aquino 11, Miranda 8, Espino 8, Mendoza 8, Daa 6, Reyes 6, Coronel 4, Gonzales 3, Butel 0.

COCA-COLA 63—Telan 15, Buenafe 9, Enrile 9, Rizada 9, Tolomia 8, Duremdes 6, Calli 4, Peek 3, Caceres 0, Calimag 0, Misolas 0.

Quarters: 22-11, 58-18, 76-47, 97-63



MARC Pingris (left) of Purefoods tries to pluck the loose ball free from Air21's JC Intal. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Dahil sa bagong
2nd Chance Panalo

Wag muna itapon ang inyong mga LOTTO tickets!

Pwedeng gamitin ang inyong lotto tickets* para manalo ng P100,000 linggo-linggo!

Napakarami nang nanalo!

Ang mga nanalo sa Luzon (Nov. 12)

P100,000.00 Winners		
Name	City	Reference #
J. Carag	Manila	RWGIY1W835
Unattended	-	C0E0QE94NQ
P50,000.00 Winners		
A. Mercado	Batangas	S28EQN7DU7
R. Cangayo	Rizal	UOJKYTS7BN
M. Asteo	Bulacan	4958H2WO1I
Unattended	-	BXM0TXCF5U

Ang mga nanalo sa VisMin (Nov. 12)

P100,000.00 Winners		
Name	City	Reference #
A. Gadiana	Negros Oriental	4R16BWZ1X8
P50,000.00 Winners		
T. Martinez	Davao City	A6HB9U3X2N
R. Navales	Gen. Santos	42XUNG4ZJO

Kaya sali na, simple lang!

1. Text LOTTO <ticket # found in your lotto ticket> to 7276

LOTTO
56C2-8C88-8204-5538

All tickets bought from Monday to Sunday should be sent in by Sunday 11:59pm to qualify

2. You will receive the reply below. Save message and present if you win.

07.07.07< 13.37:00. Natanggap ng Lotto 2nd Chance Panalo ang entry mo <56C2-8C88-8204-5538>. Meron kang 1 entry <reference#>.

Dito mahahanap ang lotto ticket number.

FOR LUZON TICKETS
itext in ang 16-digits alphanumeric lotto ticket number
Ex: LOTTO 56C28C8882045538

FOR VIS/MIN TICKETS V1
itext in ang last 15-digits ng 35-digit numeric lotto ticket number
Ex: LOTTO 231498386362368

FOR VIS/MINTICKET V2
itext in ang 15-digits numeric lotto ticket number
Ex: LOTTO 36900000015104

* Superlotto 6/49, Megalotto 6/45, Lotto 6/42, 6-Digit, 4-Digit, Suertres and EZ2 tickets

Prizes	# of Luzon winners	# of Vis/Min winners
P100,000	2	1
P50,000	4	2
P60	60	40

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P50,000 weekly! P60 Smart Load daily! Kaya sali na!

MECHANICS:

1. Service is available to all Smart and Talk N'Text Subscribers, 18 years old and above
2. For Luzon Subscribers:
   A. Text LOTTO, followed by the 16-digit lotto ticket number and send to 7276 Ex. LOTTO A6C0-1600-9038-2513
   B. Confirmation message with reference number will be sent to your phone MM.DD:YY< hh:mm:ss. Natanggap ng Lotto 2nd Chance Panalo ang entry mo <16-digit ticket#>. Meron kang 1 entry <reference#>. Ang draw date nito ay sa <mm/dd/yy>. Ipakita ang orihinal na ticket sa pag claim ng prize. 18 years old pataas lang ang pwedeng sumali
   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
   D. Winner's names will be published in leading newspapers.
3. For Visayas and Mindanao Subscribers:
   A. Text LOTTO, followed by the 15-digit lotto ticket number and send to 7276 15-digit lotto ticket is the last 15 numbers in the 35 digit ticket number. Ex. LOTTO 36890000017408-5
   B. Confirmation message with reference number will be sent to your phone MM:DD:YY< hh:mm:ss. Natanggap ng Lotto 2nd Chance Panalo ang entry mo <15-digit ticket#>. Meron kang 1 entry <reference#>. Ang draw date nito ay sa <mm/dd/yy>. Ipakita ang orihinal na ticket sa pag claim ng prize. 18 years old pataas lang ang pwedeng sumali
   C. Save the confirmation message, reference number, and lotto ticket
   D. Winner's names will be published in leading newspapers.
4. Weekly validity period is from 12:00am Monday to 11:59pm Sunday. All tickets bought from Monday to Sunday should be sent in by Sunday 11:59pm to qualify. P2.50 per entry.
5. Prizes above P10,000 subject to government tax.

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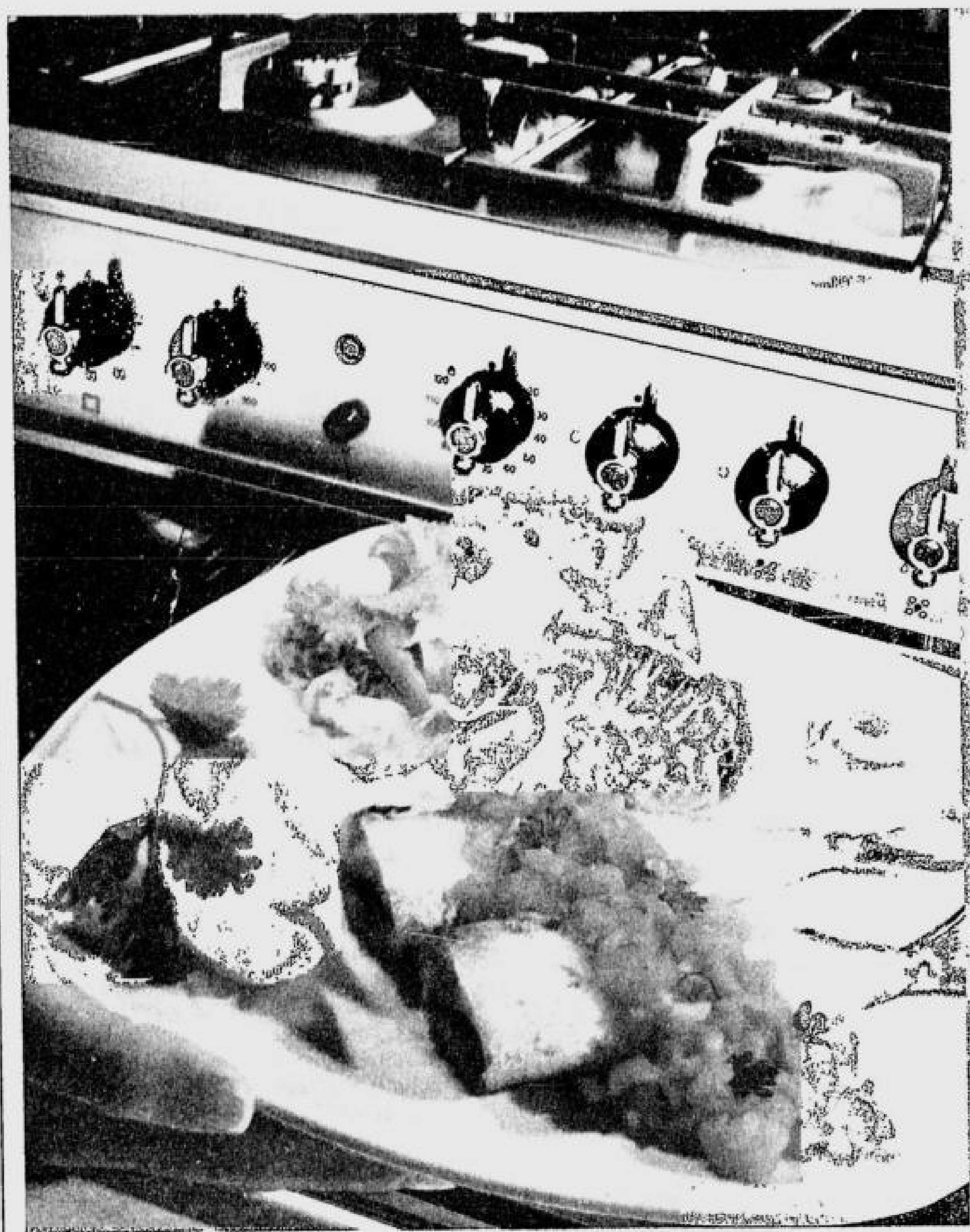
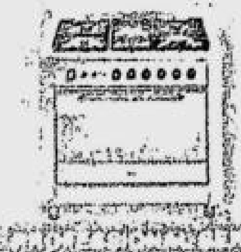
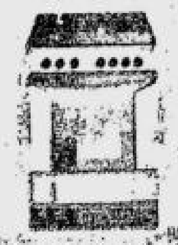
PCSO
Walang kupas







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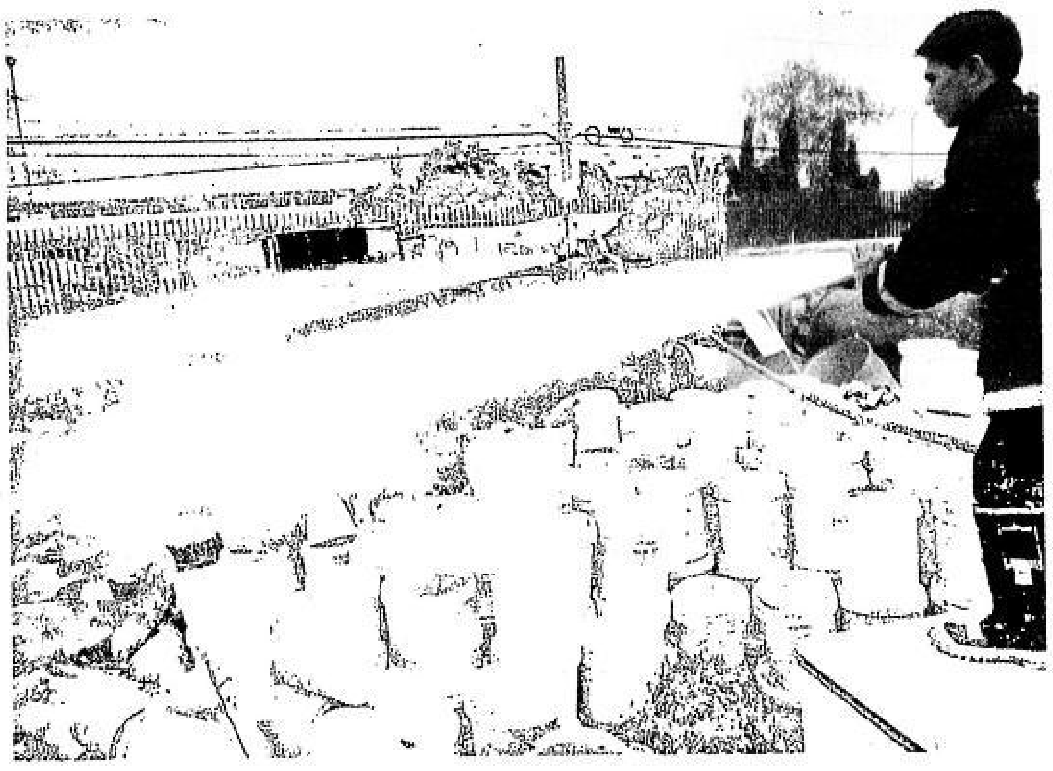
DID YOU KNOW

TO FACILITATE tax collection, Spanish Governor-General Narciso Claverla ordered on Nov. 11, 1849 the systematic distribution of family names to natives. The central government in Manila then released lists of surnames from the Catalogo de Alfabetos to provincial governors, who, in turn, assigned surnames to each town. This is why in some towns, the family names of residents begin with the same letter.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research



A FIREMAN trains his hose on burning pails of chemicals stored at the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency after an hour-long fire hit the evidence storage area. Policemen have yet to conduct an inventory of the items lost in the fire. JOAN BONDOC

Fire destroys drug evidence

But it saved trip to burn site

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AN HOUR-LONG FIRE BROKE OUT YESTERDAY IN A VACANT lot which served as the storage area of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Quezon City, destroying chemicals and other evidence seized by the agency in different anti-drug operations.

FIRE/ A22

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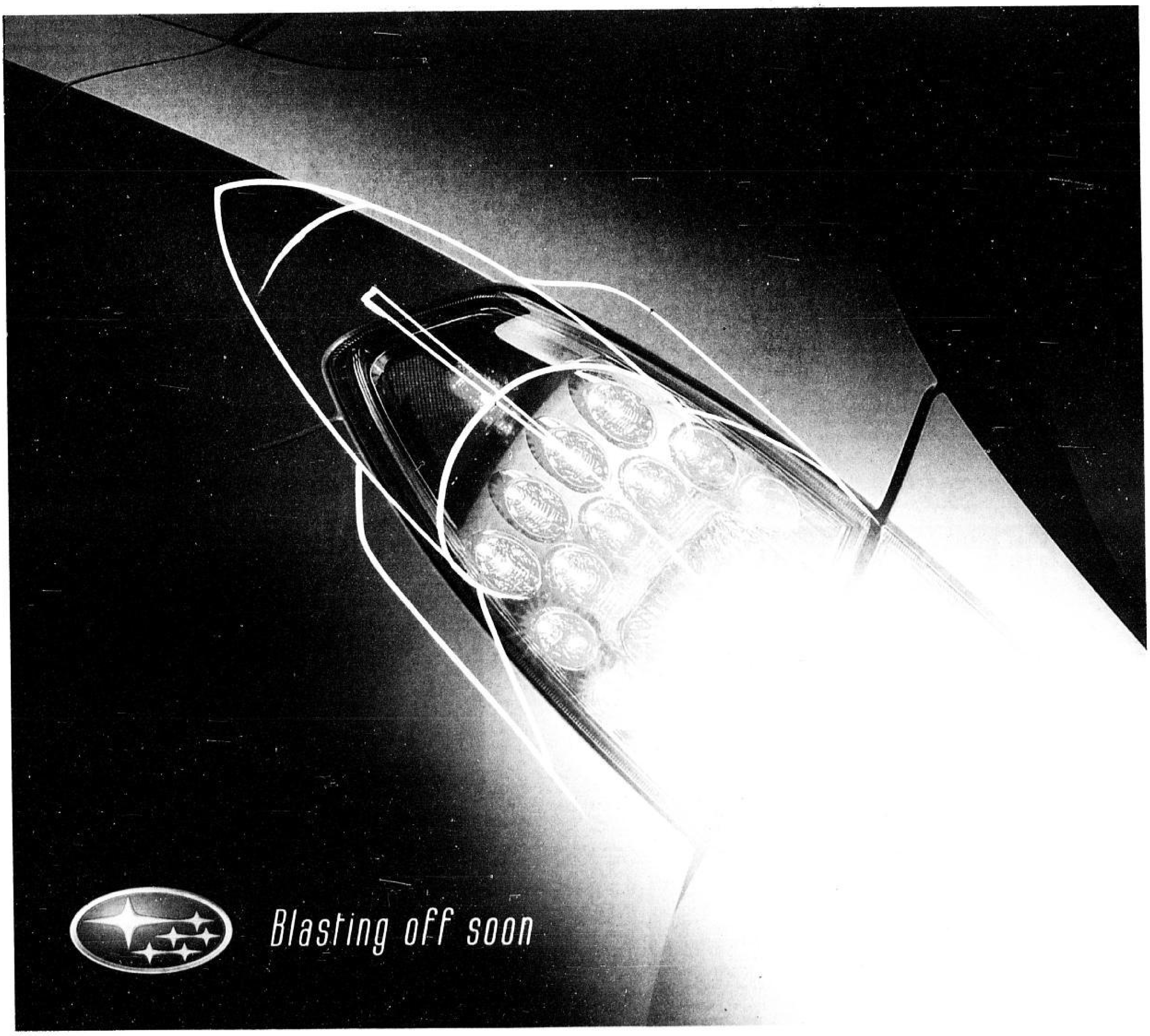


43 Pasig City firms warned on environment violations

By Kristine L. Alave

THE PASIG CITY ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) has issued notices to 43 business establishments in the city for violating national and local environmental laws.

Cenro chief Racquel A. Naciongayo said yesterday that members of Pasig's "Green Police" have been going around the city to check the companies' compliance with environmental laws.

Naciongayo added that their action is in line with Mayor Robert Eusebio's Pasig City Green City program which aims to improve the quality of life in the city by making it more environment-friendly.

Since October, Naciongayo said the Cenro has sent notices to 43 business establishments such as backyard junk shops, condominium buildings, grocery stores and manufacturing firms.

The owners of these establishments were ordered to comply with the law within 15 days after receiving the notice.

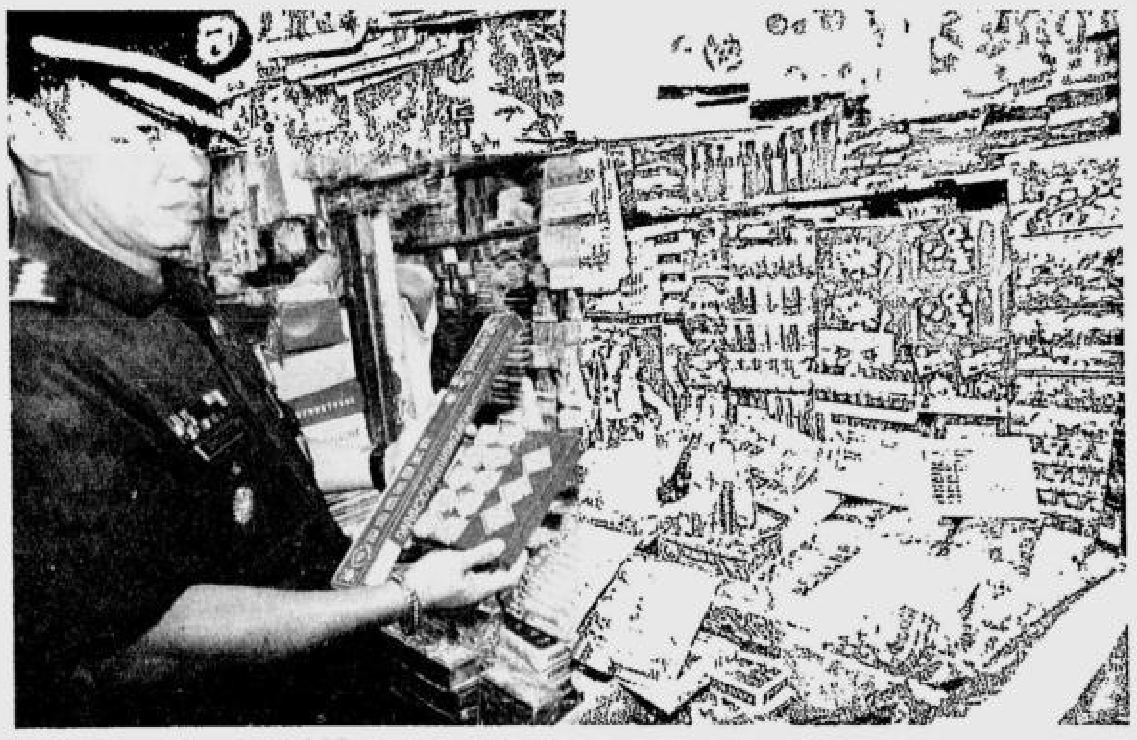
According to Naciongayo, most of the companies did not have adequate environment permits while some had deficient anti-pollution devices.

Others also failed to pay fines and penalties to the city government for past violations.

Companies with faulty machinery and equipment that created noise and air pollution were also ordered to stop using the equipment, Naciongayo added.

Meanwhile, Pasig City officials led by Eusebio yesterday planted about 300 trees on Ortigas Avenue extension in coordination with Rockwell Land, the Manila Electric Co. and Petron Corp.

The activity was part of the local government's plan to plant 10,000 trees all over the city to create more green spaces and combat air pollution.



HOLIDAY INSPECTION

Manila Bureau of Fire Protection chief, Senior Supt. Pablito Cordeta, inspects stalls at the Divisoria Mall in Binondo. According to Cordeta, the mall is a fire trap which should be shut down. REM ZAMORA

Fire destroys . . .

From page A21

Romy dela Rosa, a welder, was hurt when he tried to put out the fire. He suffered burns on his face and was taken to the East Avenue Medical Center for treatment.

PDEA Director General Dionisio Santiago told the INQUIRER that they were just waiting for permission from the court to destroy the stored evidence when the fire broke out.

"The court system is very slow here. Otherwise, we could have disposed of the materials earlier in our facilities in Cavite," Santiago said. He added that there was no cause for alarm because the damage was "very minimal."

PDEA public information office chief Derrick Carreon said that the fire started at around 10 a.m. while Dela Rosa's coworker, Virgilio Belga, was cutting scrap metal from seized vehicles stored at the evidence storage area, using an acetylene torch.

Some sparks, however, flew into the pails of acetone and chloroform stored nearby.

Dela Rosa saw the fire and tried to put it out. His efforts, however, only further fanned the flames.

Firemen from the Quezon City Fire Department were called in as the blaze started to eat up plastic pails containing the flammable chemicals, an Isuzu Elf truck, an owner-type jeepney and a tricycle—all part of the evidence seized by PDEA in its operations.

Firefighters finally put out the hour an hour later.

According to Carreon, the two workers never coordinated with any "responsible personnel" before they started to cut up the scrap metal. By "responsible personnel," the PIO head said he was referring to security personnel and PDEA officers on duty.

Carreon also pointed out that there were signs warning people in the area about the chemicals stored nearby, but the two men apparently ignored the warnings.

However, he said the fire may have saved the PDEA the trouble of bringing the seized evidence to Bacoor and Trece Martires towns in Cavite and Valenzuela City where these would be destroyed.

Manila firm on policy for illegal settlers

By Allison W. Lopez

GOOD NEWS FOR ILLEGAL settlers in Manila.

Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday said demolitions would no longer be allowed unless there is a relocation site ready for affected families.

Lim also announced the awarding of lots to 99 qualified families under the city government's "Land for the Landless" project.

The beneficiaries will receive certificates of lot awards in a ceremony to be held today at the Manila City Hall's Bulwagang Katipunan

It is the second time this year that the city government will award parcels of land to poor residents. Around 187 families were awarded lots in September.

Lim said he was standing firm on his "no demolition without relocation" policy to spare residents the indignity of living on the streets.

Caloocan employees leave workplace after bomb threat

By Nancy C. Carvajal

EMPLOYEES OF THE CALOOCAN City justice building were forced to leave their desks yesterday after a telephone operator reported receiving a bomb threat call.

Supt. Willliam Macavinta, city police chief, said that at 7:30 a.m., Norma Medrano, the judicial office phone operator, got a phone call from an unidentified man.

The caller reportedly told her, "*Sasabog ang* justice building (The justice building is going to explode)."

The bomb threat, although downplayed by Macavinta as a hoax, prompted Executive Judge Calixto Adriatico to order the evacuation of all employees and visitors in the building.

"It was a crank call and this was not the first time this kind of call was received by the operator. It could be the work of relatives of suspects who want to delay a case hearing," Macavinta told the INQUIRER.

But according to a clerk of court, no big case was being heard yesterday.

As a precaution, antibomb personnel and trained dogs checked the building's premises and perimeter but found no bomb.

Employees went back to work an hour later.

The incident occurred a day after an explosion rocked the Batasan complex in Quezon City, killing four persons, including Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar.

Batasan bombing: Who did it?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

AS AN INSTITUTION, THE Philippine Marine Corps couldn't have been behind the death of Basilan Rep. Wahab Akbar.

But here's my educated guess: It was done by individual members to avenge the death of 10 comrades after an ambush in Basilan in July.

The Marines suspected it was Akbar's men who beheaded and mutilated their dead after they strayed into the territory of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in search of a kidnapped Italian priest.

The ambush was allegedly staged by both the MILF and Akbar's men.

But the mutilation of the dead soldiers was reportedly the work of the late congressmen's goons.

I talked with some Marines who expressed bitterness over what they considered to be the government's apathy towards the death of their comrades in Basilan.

"*Di namin palalampasin ang ginawa nila*, Sir (They won't get away with it)," a Marine enlisted man told me several days after the ambush.

The Marine Corps, like the its counterparts in other countries, is a fraternity.

You oppress one member, the entire group goes after you.

The victims of the Basilan ambush in July were members of the Recon Battalion, the Corps' commando unit. The crème de la crème.

Recon members are experts in surveillance and demolition operations.

The Marines used to guard the Batasan complex, so they had the run of the place.

They have since been replaced by the Special Action Force of the Philippine National Police.

"Mon, it's a pity that innocent people were killed or wounded in the bombing," said a Marine officer, commenting on the death of Akbar.

But it's a reality in war that civilians get killed, the officer added.

If I may venture another guess, the bombing was done inside the Batasan complex probably to send a message.

Most congressmen get Marines as their bodyguards, but they don't defend the Corps when it is in trouble.

After the humiliating debacle in Basilan last July, Congressman Akbar added salt to the wound by criticizing the Corps in a privilege speech.

Only one congressman defended the Marine Corps from Akbar's attack: Teodoro "Teddyboy" Locsin of Makati City.

* * *

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim has hit upon a novel idea of bringing the government to the people.

He has set up City Hall satellite offices in several districts in the city.

Residents don't need to go to the City Hall to apply for their business permits, health permits, engineering clearance, mayor's permits, etc.

They can now file them at the satellite offices.

The permits are approved in one day.

And—listen to this—the permits are delivered at the doorsteps of the applicants, free of charge!

Mayor Lim has formed a motorcycle fleet for the city government's messengerial service.

"It's my way of thanking Manilans for giving me another chance to serve them," Lim told me.

* * *

If you're in Davao City, be sure not to smoke in enclosed public places like restaurants, moviehouses and casinos.

There is no exception to the smoking ban.

Even friends of Mayor Rodrigo Duterte are not exempted from the ban.

METRO
Citizen's Call

Our City of Affections and Disaffections is made up of stories.
Your stories. Tell us all about it.

- Did a signage make your day?
- Garbage dumped on your street unmake your day?
- Street diggings forever on the street where you live?
- Are you up in arms against the demolition of an ancestral house?
- Awed by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Got stuck in potholes?
- Fed up with cussing and feuding neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

Tell, text us about it. With photos, if you will. Share the good news where you are—and the bad. Being involved is the only way to make Metro Manila a safer, saner, healthier and an exciting place to live in.

JUST TEXT SMS: ccall name/age/location <message>
MMS: <insert photo> ccall name/age/location <caption/message>

0918-8985566

P.S. Please don't send tips on criminal activities and scams. Call the police.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Manila to host sports festival for students

By Allison W. Lopez

LIM

GET INTO SPORTS, NOT drugs.

The city government of Manila will be hosting this month a major sports festival for students of schools and universities nationwide to promote sports and steer the youth away from illegal drugs.

A memorandum of agreement was signed last week by Mayor Alfredo Lim and former Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, head of the Federation of School Sports Association of the Philippines (Fessap Inc.).

The MOA called for the conduct of the first Philippine Universiade Manila on Nov. 23-30.

"I believe that somewhere out there, raw talents are waiting to be discovered. We will help our youth turn their backs on drugs and encourage them to engage in sports and other athletic activities," Lim said.

The sports fest, with the theme "Unity Despite Diversity," will be held at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium and Rizal Memorial Sports Complex in Malate.

According to Pichay, there was a need to develop new sports talents who would be trained extensively by Fessap for national and international competitions.

Among the events in the Universiade are athletics, basketball, swimming, volleyball and cheer dance. There will also be archery, arnis, badminton, boxing, chess, table tennis and taekwondo matches.

"We will keep them busy and away from drugs. We will develop new talents, new world champions. The city of Manila is spearheading the renaissance in sports," said Pichay, who admitted that the country was lagging behind in most sports save for boxing.

He said the Fessap, which has 91 member schools, has the capacity to train around 5,000 athletes every year.

METROBRIEFS

Fire hits rehab center

FIRE broke out in a residential area in Mandaluyong City yesterday, destroying a small rehabilitation center. According to initial reports from the city's fire department, the fire started at 5:15 p.m. in a house on F. Ortigas Street, New Zaniga. Jimmy Isidro, a spokesman from city hall, said the establishment that was damaged was being used as a rehabilitation center. Residents from nearby houses were immediately evacuated, he added. No fatalities or injuries were reported in the blaze that firefighters placed under control almost an hour later. At press time, arson investigators were still at the site determining the cause of the blaze.

Kristine L. Alave

Jobless man kills self

UNEMPLOYED and unable to provide for his family, a 49-year-old man killed himself in Proj. 4, Quezon City the other day. Based on reports from the Quezon City Police District, Romeo Sales hanged himself inside his house. His body was later found by his wife, Myrna. The police said the victim apparently committed suicide out of desperation because he could not provide for his family.

Marlet D. Salazar

Dead on arrival

MALL goers were surprised when a man jumped from the upper floor of the Trinoma shopping center in Quezon City and landed on another man on Tuesday afternoon. Zeno Jerome Pilar, 24, of 1802-A Florentino St. in Sampaloc, Manila, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center, according to reports of the Quezon City Police District. Initial investigation revealed that Pilar, an engineer, jumped from the mall's upper floors and landed on Rico Abendan who was seated on a bench at the Trinoma activity center. Abendon was also brought to the VMMC where he was treated for a fractured left foot. Police are still trying to determine why Pilar jumped.

Marlet D. Salazar

Neurology lectures set

THE MAKATI Medical Center neurology section is holding lectures on the latest diagnostic and therapeutic options for common neurologic diseases until Nov. 16. The speakers include local and international experts. Among the topics to be discussed are Updates in Stroke Management, Rapidly Progressive Dementia, Updates on Epilepsy and Current Treatment of Parkinson's Disease. For information, please call the MMC at 8888999 loc. 8636 or 7365, 0918-9420374 or e-mail mmc_neurology@yahoo.com.

Bible convention in QC

SOME 500 foreign delegates from 15 countries will gather on Nov. 16-18 in Novaliches, Quezon City to attend an annual convention of International Bible students. Organized by the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of the Philippines with the theme "Follow the Christ," the series of Bible-based lectures would help individuals lead a meaningful life and improve their relationship with God. For inquiries, call the Watch Tower office in Quezon City at 4116090.

US pulls out 3,000 troops from Iraq

BAGHDAD—THE US MILITARY is sending 3,000 soldiers home from Diyala province, the second large unit to leave Iraq as troop levels are cut after a 30,000-strong "surge" earlier this year.

Soldiers from the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, will not be replaced by a new unit when they leave the ethnically and religiously mixed province north of Baghdad by January, US military officials said on Tuesday.

Instead, troops from the larger 4th Striker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, located near Baghdad, will take over the area, said military spokesperson Maj. Peggy Kageleiry.

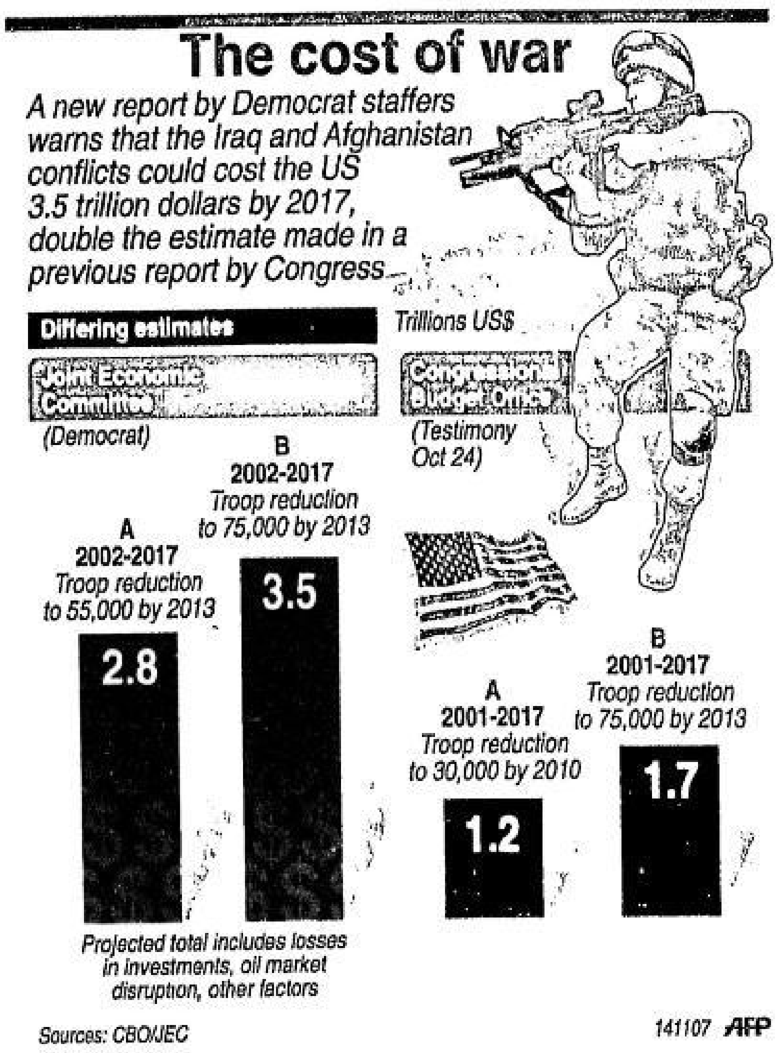
"Most of the (brigade) will be home by Christmas and indeed a few people have left," Kageleiry said.

About 2,200 Marines from the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit left western Anbar province in late September under US President George W. Bush's plan to cut troop levels in Iraq.

Bush poured in an extra 30,000 troops from mid-February in a bid to stop Iraq spiralling into sectarian civil war. There are around 162,000 US soldiers in Iraq, the Pentagon said.

US and Iraqi officials say the troop "surge," more efficient Iraqi security forces and the use of neighborhood patrols have helped bring about sharp falls in US military and Iraqi civilian casualties in the past two months.

Reuters



A new report by Democrat staffers warns that the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts could cost the US 3.5 trillion dollars by 2017, double the estimate made in a previous report by Congress

Projected total includes losses in investments, oil market disruption, other factors

Sources: CBO/JEC

141107 ***AFP***

Burma junta defies UN, continues crackdown

RANGOON—BURMA'S (MYANmar) military junta arrested three more activists on Wednesday, surging ahead with a crackdown even as it hosted a UN human rights investigator and insisted that all arrests had stopped, witnesses said.

The latest to be nabbed were at least three people handing out antiregime pamphlets at the busy Thiri Mingalar fruit and vegetable market in Rangoon, shoppers and other witnesses said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they feared reprisals from the government.

"I saw at least three young men in white shirts being arrested by market security officials," said one of the witnesses, a market worker. The leaflets included a statement from the United Nations and one saying that forcing people to take part in pro-junta rallies violated the Geneva Convention.

It followed the earlier arrests of two prominent dissidents. One came Tuesday as UN human rights envoy Paulo Sergio Pinheiro met with Cabinet ministers in the junta's remote, jungle capital Naypyitaw.

Pinheiro was to confer with the government's foreign and labor ministers before returning to Rangoon on Thursday.

Pinheiro's five-day visit is part of an investigation into widespread allegations of human rights abuses since the regime's violent crackdown on pro-democracy protests in September. He was "given assurances" by the junta that he will be able to interview detainees before leaving, the UN said in a statement.

At a UN Security Council meeting, the United States and other Western countries deplored the arrests of those two dissidents, saying they raised doubts about the ruling junta's sincerity in moving toward democracy and cooperating with the United Nations.

Su Su Nway, a prominent female activist who has been on the run for more than two months, was arrested on Tuesday morning in Rangoon as she tried to place a leaflet near a hotel where Pinheiro was staying, exiled Burmese dissidents in Thailand said.

U Gambira, a Buddhist monk who helped spearhead the prodemocracy demonstrations in Rangoon was arrested several days ago, said Stanley Aung of the Thailand-based dissident group National League for Democracy-Liberated Area.

U Gambira, also known as U Gambiya, was a leader of the All-Burma Monks alliance, a group established to support prodemocracy protests after small demonstrations began in August.

AP

Cost of Iraq, Afghan wars forecast to hit $3.5T

WASHINGTON—THE IRAQ and Afghanistan wars could cost the United States $3.5 trillion through 2017 if "hidden costs" like higher oil prices, care for wounded soldiers and interest on borrowed money are counted, congressional Democrats said on Tuesday.

The estimate, in a report by Democrats on the Joint Economic Committee, is about $1 trillion higher than an Oct. 24 analysis of war costs by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, which mostly weighed direct war expenditures and borrowing costs of more than $700 billion.

The new report assumed the United States would withdraw about half of its present combat troops from Iraq by 2013 and maintain 75,000 soldiers there from 2013-2017.

The estimate was released as the House of Representatives again prepared to debate legislation setting timetables for ending US military involvement in Iraq, now in its fifth year.

Anti-war Democrats with a presidential election coming up next November want to link new war funds to a call for combat troops to withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2008.

"We cannot afford this war," Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Nevada Democrat, told reporters, noting that 3,860 US troops have been killed and 38,164 wounded in Iraq.

The senior Republicans on the Joint Economic Committee, Sen. Sam Brownback of Kansas and Rep. Jim Saxton of New Jersey, questioned the accuracy of the cost estimate. They added, "The wars in Afghanistan and Iraq certainly involve costs, but prematurely pulling out of these wars would also include huge costs that are ignored in the Democrats' report."

Sen. Charles Schumer, the New York Democrat who chairs the Joint Economic Committee, acknowledged his staff's analysis did not incorporate positive economic impacts.

"No. That money would've been spent on other things," Schumer replied.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, Congress has appropriated about $604 billion to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan and President George W. Bush has asked for nearly $200 billion more.

Reuters

Doctor at crash thought Diana would survive

LONDON—THE FIRST DOCtor on the scene of Princess Diana's Paris car crash thought she would survive but he had no idea how severe her internal injuries were.

Dr. Frederic Mailliez, who had worked for the fire brigade as an emergency doctor, was driving through the Alma tunnel on the night of Aug. 31, 1997, just after Diana's chauffeur-driven limousine crashed on the opposite side of the carriageway.

Mailliez stopped and rushed across to see if he could help anyone in the smoking wreck, he told the London inquest into the deaths of Diana and her lover Dodi al-Fayed on Tuesday.

Mailliez said he saw that al-Fayed and Henri Paul, the car's driver, were dead.

Next he turned to bodyguard Trevor Rees. "Obviously he was alive because he was screaming," Mailliez told the London court by videolink from Paris.

He then saw Diana slumped in the back of the Mercedes.

"She was alive, she was moaning, but she was really weak," said Mailliez who discovered only next day who his patient was.

"I do not remember any serious injury on her forehead. I just remember a few drops of blood." Richard Keen, the lawyer representing the family of Paul, asked Mailliez: "Do you remember saying ... that you thought the lady you had treated would survive?"

"Yes, I said that," Mailliez told the lawyer.

But he did not know how severe her internal injuries were.

"I did not have any way to make any precise diagnosis," he explained to the court.

Mailliez said he was aware of paparazzi firing off flashbulbs at the crash scene as he administered emergency aid to Diana "but they did not hamper me doing my job."

The inquest, expected to last up to six months and cost up to 10 million pounds ($20.87 million), was opened after British and French police investigations concluded Diana and Dodi died because Paul was inebriated and driving too fast.

Reuters

WORLDBRIEFS

Lethal bird flu outbreak in Britain

LONDON—Veterinary authorities confirmed an outbreak of the potentially lethal Asian strain of bird flu in eastern England on Tuesday, in a new blow to the British farming industry. More than 6,000 poultry were ordered to be slaughtered at the site in Suffolk, where an exclusion zone was imposed on Monday after a suspected outbreak was found. "I can now confirm that the strain of avian influenza found in the infected premises is the highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 strain," said deputy chief veterinary officer Fred Landeg. "It is of the Asian lineage. It is closely related to strains of the highly pathogenic avian influenza found this summer in the Czech Republic and in Germany," he added.

AFP

Hamas cracks down on Fatah

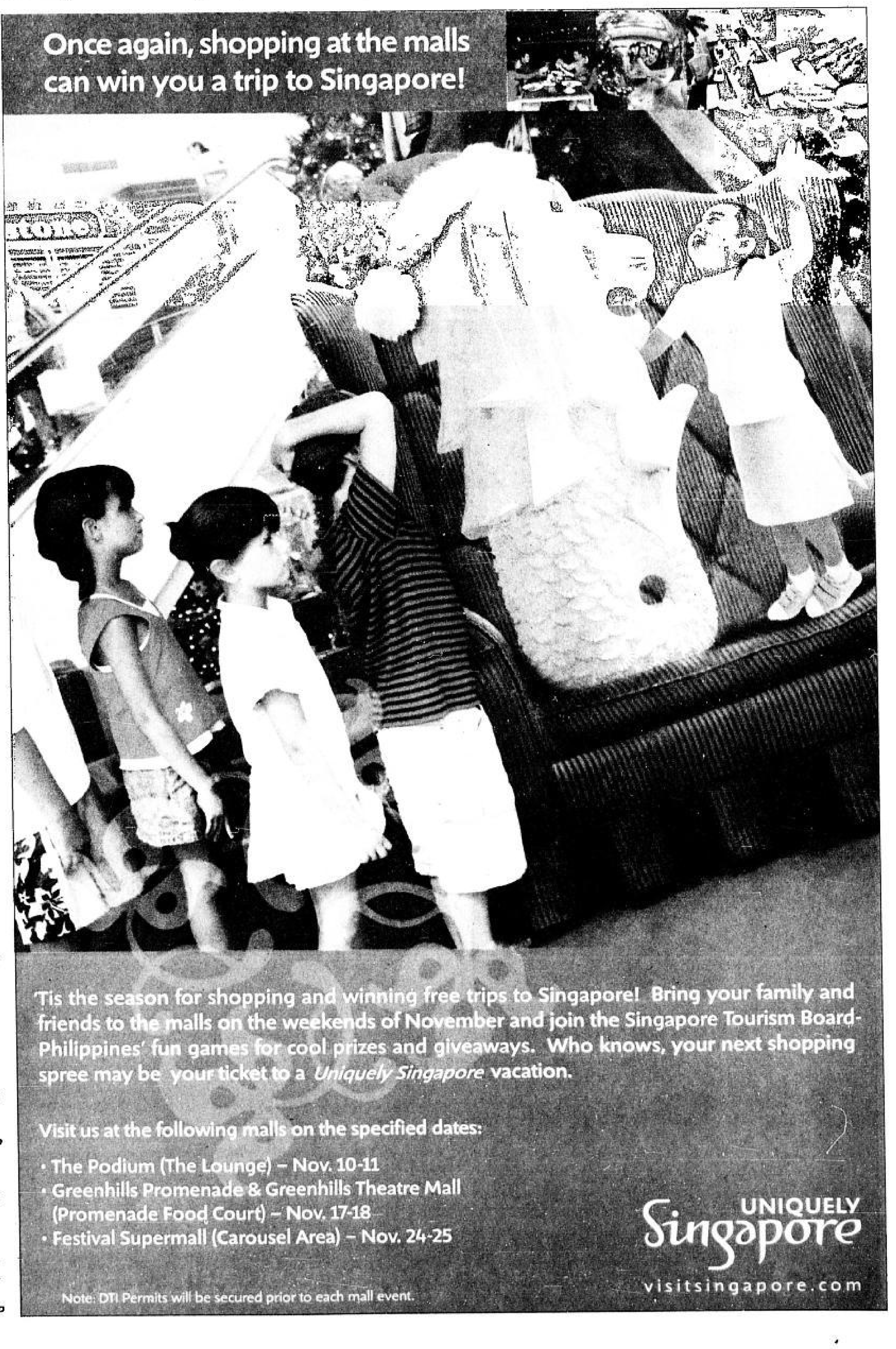
GAZA CITY—Hamas rounded up at least 200 Fatah party members in Gaza on Tuesday, the day after Islamist gunmen killed seven people at a mass rally that underscored the deep divisions between rival Palestinians. The official Palestinian press denounced the killings as a "massacre" while hundreds of Palestinians took to the streets in towns across the occupied West Bank to vent their anger against Hamas. The Hamas force that has policed Gaza since the Islamist group violently seized power in June "arrested scores of senior Fatah members and members of our branch offices," senior Fatah official Ibrahim Abu al-Naga told AFP.

AFP

France's rail workers stage strike

PARIS—French rail workers kicked off an open-ended, nationwide strike late Tuesday setting up a showdown between the unions and President Nicolas Sarkozy over his commitment to reform. Unions at the state SNCF rail company walked off the job at 8 p.m. and the shutdown was to extend on Wednesday to Paris metro trains and the GDF and EDF public utilities. Police used truncheons and tear gas to break up a student protest at a Paris university in the hours before the strikes called to protest Sarkozy's plans to scrap pension benefits.

AFP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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Musharraf won't quit until turmoil is over

ISLAMABAD—PAKISTAN PRESIDENT PERVEZ Musharraf vowed Wednesday not to quit until the country's political turmoil was over, strongly defending his decision to impose a state of emergency.

In an interview with Britain's Sky News television, he reiterated general elections promised by Jan. 9 would be held under emergency rule.

"The day when there is no turmoil in Pakistan, I will step down," he said. "I am not a dictator, I want a democracy."

In brief excerpts released by Sky on its website, Musharraf admitted the political situation was not going well and called for unity. "Leave the past behind. The country must work together for the best of Pakistan." Musharraf imposed emergency rule on Nov. 3 citing Islamic militancy and an interfering judiciary, and has said several times since that he took the decision in the best interests of the country.

The military ruler, who grabbed power in a coup in 1999, is under mounting domestic and international pressure to end the emergency, quit as Army chief, restore the constitution and allow free and fair elections.

He had already indicated Sunday that emergency rule would remain in place until the vote in order to ensure it could go ahead safely.

Interviewed by the New York Times and other newspapers, Musharraf rejected calls by US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to rescind the measures, which he has indicated would continue until general elections promised by Jan. 9.

"I totally disagree with her," Musharraf said. "The emergency is to ensure elections go in an undisturbed manner."

Pakistan's former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto sought Wednesday to forge a united front against Musharraf as the United States pressed the increasingly isolated military ruler to end emergency rule.

Bhutto, a two-time former premier, has begun reaching out to other leaders of the fractious opposition after breaking off with Musharraf, urging him to resign as president and vowing never to serve under him in government.

She remained under house arrest in the eastern city of Lahore, where around 1,000 police maintained their security stranglehold around a residence surrounded by barbed wire and barricades.

Meanwhile Washington, which views Musharraf's Pakistan as a key ally in its "war on terror," is dispatching John Negroponte, the deputy to Rice, to Islamabad later this week.

Negroponte, who will be the highest-ranking US official to visit since the crisis erupted, will press for an end to the emergency.

US President George W. Bush called for a swift return to democracy.

"He understands the stakes of the war, and I do believe he understands the importance of democracy," Bush told the Fox Business Network. *AFP*

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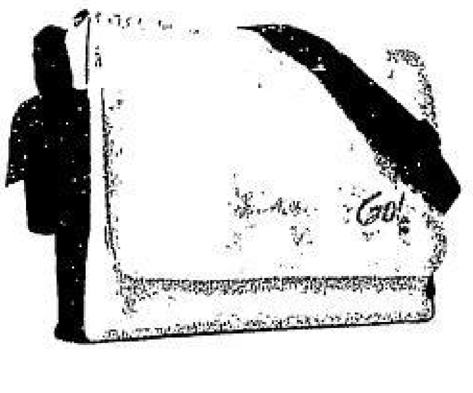

SPORTS

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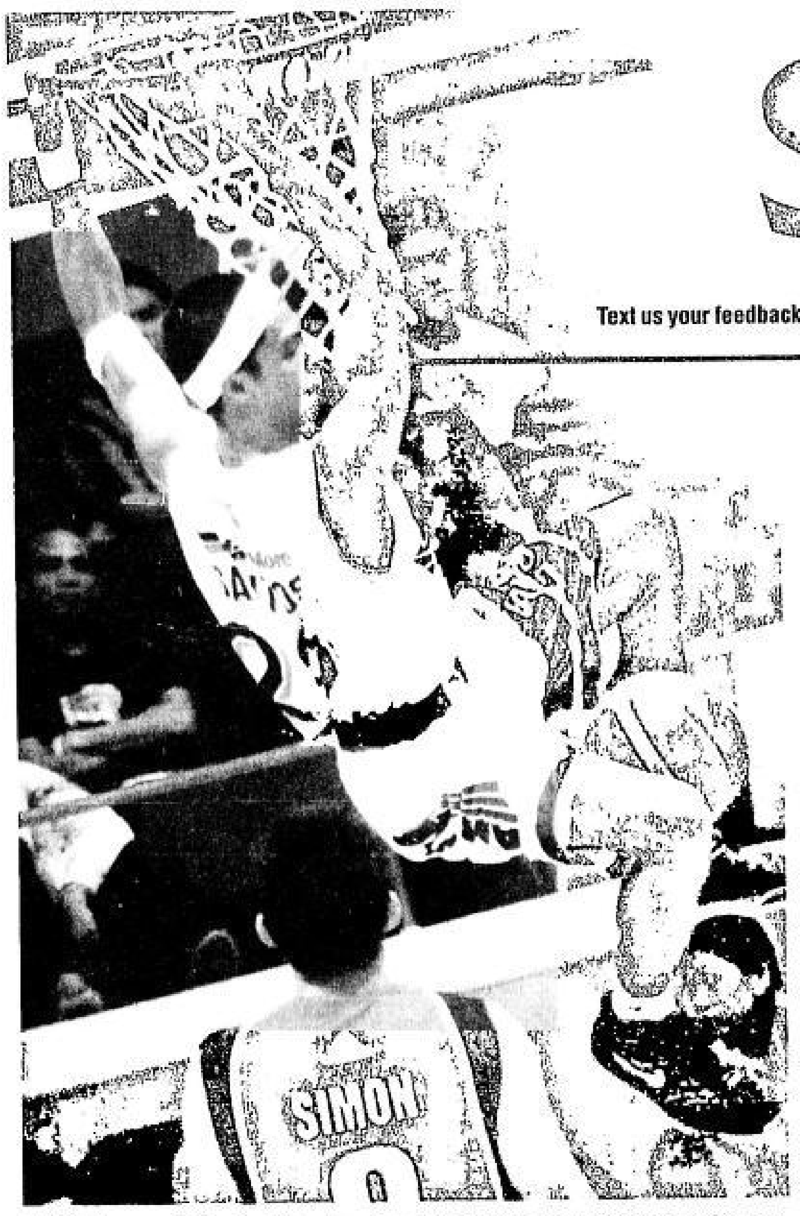
WHAT'S INSIDE

Celtics match best start in 20 years /A28



AIR21 forward Arwind Santos slams the ball home after a breakaway against Purefoods' June Simon. The Giants ripped the Express, 100-81, to stretch their unbeaten run to seven games in the Smart PBA Philippine Cup. ***Story on A20.***

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

RP-Harbour Centre stuns taller Slingers

By Roy Luarca

SINGAPORE—FOR A WHILE DURING THE game, the smaller Filipinos were struggling against the towering Singapore Slingers.

But when the final stretch came, Philippine-Harbour Centre flashed enough fighting spirit to topple the Australian professional team, 100-93, Tuesday night before a predominantly Filipino crowd at the Jurong East Sports and Cultural Centre here.

Giving away over four inches to each man, the Filipinos trailed the Slingers throughout the first three quarters and a little past midpoint of the fourth, 90-86.

It was then that the Filipinos hit full throttle, attacking the Slingers, who average 6-foot-5 1/2, inside and out while tightening up on their defense.

Sleeky guards Jason Castro, barely 5-foot-10, and Al Vergara, just 5-foot-7, combined with veteran Allan Salangsang in a closing 14-3 salvo that reversed the outcome to the delight of around 2,000 flag-waving and wildly cheering countrymen.

"The boys showed mental toughness, they really want to prove something," said RP team coach Junel Baculi, referring to the criticisms back home as to his wards capability to retain the Southeast Asian Games men's basketball crown in Thailand next month.

It was the Filipinos' first acid test in their four-game tune-up series here after dumping the Singapore national team, 90-42, Sunday, and the United States Navy selection, 105-58, Monday.

"They showed their heart," said Harbour Centre owner and amateur basketball godfather Mikee Romero. "This is a huge, huge win."

So elated was Romero, who's overseeing the Nationals' preparations here with special assistant Erick Arejola, that he gave each member of the team $100 at the dugout as bonus.

With big men Alex Crisano and Beau Belga saddled with fouls, reigning UAAP MVP Jervy Cruz manned the slot for the Nationals and more than held his own against the Slingers'

RP-HARBOUR/ A28

Four PBL teams try to find winning formula

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PBL V-GO ENERGY DRINK CUP REsumes today with four teams—winless Pharex and Bacchus, and slumping San Mig Coffee and Toyota Balintawak—mixing it up to stay afloat at the Arena in San Juan.

The Road Kings are nursing a three-game losing skid which hurt their standings after winning their first two games of the conference.

Toyota coach Ariel Vanguardia said he is confident his charges will recover from the successive losses, the last of which was a 103-86 lashing from powerhouse Harbour Centre.

Gametime is 4 p.m.

San Mig Coffee is also trying to get back its winning ways and will be motivated to redeem itself from the sting of the 88-78 defeat at the hands of Southeast Asian Games-bound national team.

Focus will also be in the first game at 2 p.m. when Pharex and Bacchus slug it out in a bid to finally get into the winning column.

The Medics, the league newcomers, are looking for their first ever win after dropping their first five games to occupy the lowest rung of the standings.

Pharex almost scored its breakthrough win against Mail and More last Tuesday when it led, 59-55, with six minutes left in the game.

However, it failed to take advantage of the break and instead crumbled down the stretch to yield, 73-64.

But the Raiders are not doing any better after blowing all their four games thus far, including a 95-85 defeat from league-leader Hapee Toothpaste recently.

STANDINGS	W	L
Hapee	5	0
Harbour	4	1
San Mig	2	2
Toyota	2	3
Mail & More	2	3
Bacchus	0	4
Pharex	0	5

GAMES TODAY (*The Arena, San Juan*)

2 p.m.—Pharex vs Bacchus

4 p.m.—San Mig vs Toyota

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Search for new 'kume' draws 6 names

By Musong R. Castillo

SIX NAMES BELONGING TO VARIOUS fields were released yesterday as the first batch of nominees for the PBA's seventh commissioner.

In the list are Carlo Singson, a Filipino working for NBA Asia, lawyer Chito Salud, telecommunications executive Lambert Ramos, businessman and player-agent Arben Santos, SBP secretary eneral Patrick Gregorio and former PBA finance chief and banker Ricky Palou.

The nominations will remain open until Nov. 23 after which the board will trim down the list to as little as three before deliberating in January next year.

Officer in charge Sonny Barrios said that the nominees were named by members of the board without their knowledge and those who turn out to be interested candidates will then be interviewed.

But Palou, the former San Miguel player and very close friend of late commissioner Emilio "Jun" Bernardino, in a telephone interview, told the INQUIRER that he is not interested.

"I have a contract to run the Ateneo athletic program until 2010," Palou said. "I'm happy where I am now because I deal with young people here and I can dip my hands in all sports (in the UAAP)."

Singson would logically be the best choice for the job, having vast experience in running the NBA marketing and publicity program in Asia. And it would be a challenge for the board how they can lure him out of his lucrative—and obviously—more glamorous post.

GREGORIO

BARRIOS

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Eagles whip Stags

ESCUETA: Backbone in crucial run PDI PHOTO

GAME SATURDAY
(*The Arena*)
12 nn—University of Visayas vs Lyceum

By Cedelf P. Tupas

ATENEO PUMMELED SAN SEbastian College, 78-51, yesterday to book a last eight slot in the Fil-Oil/Flying V National Collegiate Champions League at the Blue Eagle Gym in Quezon City.

The Blue Eagles turned up the pressure just when the Stags were slowing down in the late stages, capping the first three frames with bristling runs to forge a quarterfinal showdown with the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers on Nov. 21.

Also clinching a quarterfinal berth yesterday were Naascu champions STI Olympians, who won by default over UAAP runners-up University of the East Warriors, who pulled out of the tournament.

Ateneo coach Norman Black, whose Eagles placed third in the UAAP and second in the University Games, doesn't see the tournament as a place for redemption for his team.

"We didn't expect to be here at the beginning of the year," said Black, who is missing center Jobe Nkemakolam, Zion Laterre and National pool member Chris Tiu. "I'm just preparing the guys for next season."

Hefty center Rabeh Al-Hussaini threw his weight around for 18 points but it was the trio of Ken Barracoso, Eric Salamat and Yuri Escueta who stood at the forefront of the closing 16-0 blast in the first quarter that snuffed the life out of the Stags.

Barracoso and Salamat combined for four triples and registered 13 and 12 markers, respectively.

Salamat also had five steals and Nonoy Baclao blocked three shots and grabbed nine rebounds as the Eagles forced the Stags to 21 turnovers, which they translated to 33 points.

University of the Visayas, whose line-up is beefed up by 6-11 Fil-American Greg Slaughter, will debut against ninth seed Lyceum at noon Saturday at the Arena in San Juan.

The Scores

ATENEO 78—Al-Hussaini 18, Barracoso 13, Salamat 12, Baldos 10, Arao 8, Escueta 7, Long 6, Baclao 4, Austria 0, Reyes 0, Monfort 0, Sumalinog 0.

SAN SEBASTIAN 51—Viray 9, Aquino 9, Bulawan 7, Ballesteros 6, Juan 6, Delgado 5, De Leon 5, Raymundo 2, Saquilio 2, Najorda 0, Del Rio 0, Zulueta 0.

Quarters: 26-8, 42-24, 62-38, 78-51.

V-League: UST, SSC favored

GAMES TOMORROW (*The Arena*)
3 p.m.—SSC vs Ateneo
5 p.m.—UST vs Adamson

By Romina S. Austria

THE 2007 SHAKEY'S V-LEAGUE women's volleyball second conference is headed for a University of Santo Tomas-San Sebastian College rematch unless the other semifinalists put up stronger showings.

Ateneo, Adamson and defending champion La Salle have been playing inconsistently and must raise their level of play if they want to avert another Tigresses-Lady Stags showdown.

Defending UAAP champion UST swept San Sebastian during the first conference finals. It was the Recto-based squad's second consecutive runner-up finish.

UST and San Sebastian topped the elimination round with identical 6-1 slates. UST absorbed its lone loss at the hands of Ateneo while dealing San Sebastian its only defeat.

The top team after the single-round carryover semifinal phase will get the first finals berth.

A team that wins three out of its four semfinal matches will arrange a playoff with the number two team for the second finals berth. If no team qualifies for that incentive, the second-ranked squad marches to the finals, too.

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Holcim tilt: RP's best not good enough

Marc Anthony Reyes

THE COUNTRY'S BEST WOMEN NETTERS just weren't good enough.

Czarina Mae Arevalo and Denise Dy, on whose shoulders the Philippines' Southeast Asian Games chances are hoisted, headed for early exits yesterday in the tough Holcim ITF women's tennis tournament at the Manila Polo Club shell courts.

Arevalo, fresh from her PCA Open triumph over the weekend, was just too slow to match the aggressiveness of China's Qiu Sisi and yielded a first-round 6-4, 6-2 decision, while Dy also dropped a lopsided 6-2, 6-3 loss to Indonesia's Ayu-Fani Damayanti.

Bambi Zoleta squeezed past Chinese-Taipei's Chiao Pang Lo (1-6, 6-4, 6-1) during Tuesday's first phase of the opening round. She will take on Korea's Hae Sung Kim today.

The 22-year-old Arevalo, a scholar at the University of Bangkok, didn't offer any excuse for giving up the match after only one hour and 12 minutes.

Dy, half of the SEAG women's doubles bronze medal-winning pair, at least admitted that she's not fit to face Damayanti, who is expected to see action in the Thailand SEAG three weeks from now.

The shaggy-haired Dy said she's still bothered by her hamstring injury she sustained during the PCA Open last week, something her second-seeded foe exploited to the hilt.

Among those who barged into the second round are Fil-Am Maureen Diaz who drubbed Sophie Cornerotte of Belarus, 6-1, 6-1.

Guam-based Fil-Am Michelle Pang, who made the finals of the PCA Open, also bowed out early after a 6-1, 6-0 defeat at the hands of sixth seed Noppawan Lertcheewakarn.

SPORTSWATCH

Gawad Kalinga race slated

THE 5TH ANIMO RUN KICKS OFF NOV. 25 from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. at IMAX Parking Area of SM Mall of Asia. The Animo Run is organized each year by the De La Salle University-Manila (DLSU-M) Running Club to support different beneficiaries. This year the proceeds benefit Gawad Kalinga. Nearly 2,000 runners are expected to participate in this year's run to support Gawad Kalinga. Registration begins on Nov. 5 until 5:30 a.m. of the race day. Participants can register at the ground floor of Enrique Razon Sports Complex of DLSU, Vito Cruz, Manila until Nov. 23. Participants can also register at DLSU-M Running Club's website. For details, contact 0917-7946635 or visit www.geocities.com/DLSUrunningclub.

Runnex-Pharmaton run set

RUNNEX WILL HOLD ITS 5K/10K EXECUtive Classic Run on Dec. 2 at 6 a.m. at the UP Diliman campus. Sponsored by Pharmaton, the 5K/10K runs will highlight the 24th anniversary of the Executive Runners Club (Runnex) Philippines Inc. The races are limited to executives, professionals, businessmen and members of the Officers Corps., AFP and PNP. For inquiries: call 0917-3928343, 0918-4674206, 3669367, 3630357, 2480288, 0917-4930517 or 0916-7133504. You can also log on to www.Adevents.com.ph. Last day of submission of entries will be on Nov. 30.

LGBA derby ends

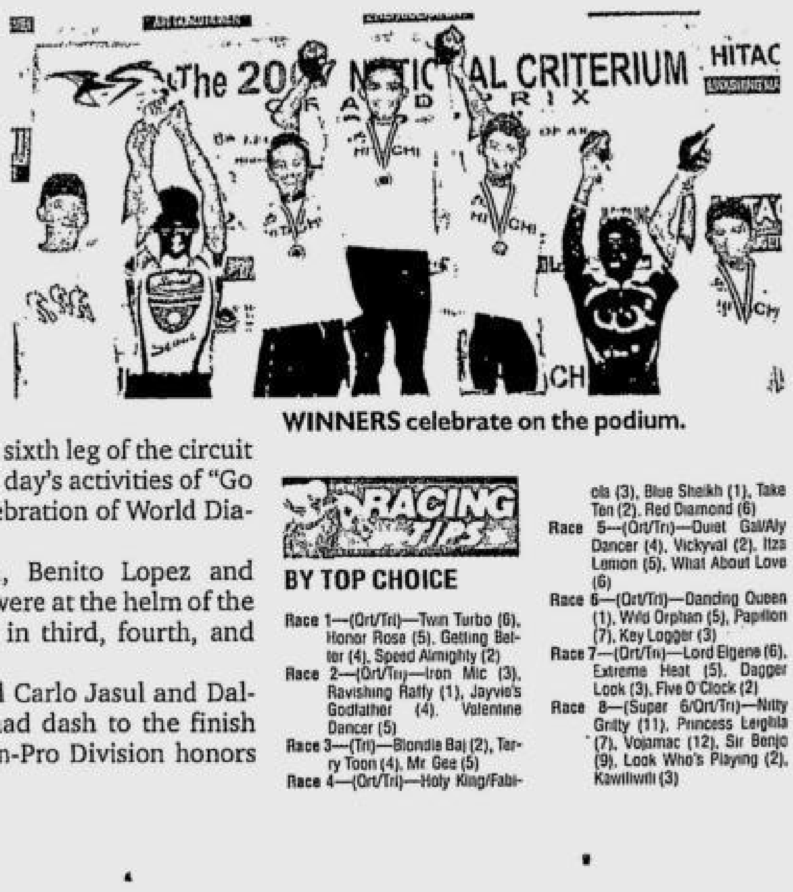
DEXTER FARM AND SAN ROQUE OF Joey de los Santos topped the 2007 stag circuit of the Laguna Gamefowl Breeders Association, which came to a close yesterday at the San Juan Coliseum. Bagging solo runner-up honors was the entry of Arthur Mendoza of Agoncillo, Batangas. With Jiffy Abantao as handler-conditioner and Jun Sandicho as gaffer, Mendoza's bet scored a total of 12.5 points in the five-chapter epic battle held at the Araneta Coliseum and San Juan.

AUSTRALIAN Peter Uren (left) and National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders secretary Fred Katigbak (right) perform the ceremonial pitting of stags to signal the start of the Bakbakan National 10-Stag Derby finals.

Clap holds cheer seminar

THE CHEERLEADING ASSOCIATION OF The Philippines (Clap) will conduct a seminar-workshop for teachers, coaches, cheerleaders and cheerleading enthusiasts from Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at the Universidad de Manila, Mehan Garden near the Manila City Hall. The theme of the seminar-workshop is "Go, Cheer & Win." For details please contact Dr. Sylvia Chua, Clap president: 0918-5611507; or Mrs. Evangeline Navarro (7244718).

Aleonal tops criterium 6th leg



WINNERS celebrate on the podium.

UNHERALDED March Aleonal broke away from the main pack in the last 200 meters, towing Joel Duenas in the process in the Open Pro Division of the Hitachi National Criterium Grand Prix at the SM Mall of Asia in Pasay City last weekend.

Aleonal topped the sixth leg of the circuit races that capped the day's activities of "Go Bike Pilipinas" in celebration of World Diabetes Day.

Rodolfo Malangsa, Benito Lopez and Michael David, who were at the helm of the second group, came in third, fourth, and fifth, respectively.

Nilo Estayo nipped Carlo Jasul and Dalton Tablizo in the mad dash to the finish line in capturing Non-Pro Division honors of the races.

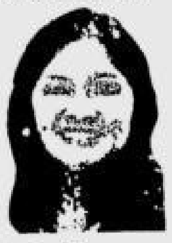
RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Twin Turbo (6), Honor Rose (5), Getting Better (4), Speed Almighty (2)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Iron Mic (3), Ravishing Raffy (1), Jayvie's Godfather (4), Valentine Dancer (5)
Race 3—(Tri)—Blondie Baj (2), Terry Toon (4), Mr Gee (5)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Holy King/Fabiola (3), Blue Sheikh (1), Take Ten (2), Red Diamond (6)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Quiet Gal/Aly Dancer (4), Vickyval (2), Itzs Lemon (5), What About Love (6)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Dancing Queen (1), Wild Orphan (5), Papillon (7), Key Logger (3)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Lord Elgene (6), Extreme Heat (5), Dagger Look (3), Five O'Clock (2)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Nitty Gritty (11), Princess Leighla (7), Vojamac (12), Sir Benjo (9), Look Who's Playing (2), Kawiliwili (3)

RP cagebelles reinforcements start arriving

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

SHE IS STRIKingly attractive; you won't miss her even in a thick crowd. Not only does she literally stand head and shoulders above those in her immediate vicinity—man or woman—her exotic Syrian beauty will also most certainly catch anybody's eye.

Amira Quintana Issa who flew in from the United States a few days ago, reported to RP women's head coach Fritz Gaston for the first time last Tuesday at the Ateneo gym in Diliman where the team was playing against one of Ateneo's high school squads.

From the airport, I proceeded straight to Loyola and was surprised to see such a specimen there.

Amira, who traces her Pinoy roots to Matalum, Leyte, is 6-foot-2 barefoot. Shod, she's one to two inches taller, depending on what shoes she's wearing.

As she and Fritz stood talking inside the hard court, it was easy to see that she was a number of inches taller than her coach. With that height, Fritz said she would be a tremendous boost to the RP cagebelles.

The other Fil-Am, 5-foot-9 Melissa Sison Jacob, will plane in later this week. The 5-foot-2 hopeful Rachel Ocampo from the University of California in Sta. Cruz was also at the Ateneo gym.

* * *

If you want to see Amira in action, the RP team will be playing against the Filipino Indian Basketball League All-Stars in a special goodwill game organized by FIBL commissioner Dilip Budhrani as part of the celebration of the Festival of Diwali, the Indian New Year and the Festival of Lights.

The game is scheduled 6 p.m. this Sunday, November 18, at the Adidas Sports Kamp at the Fort.

* * *

Although Air21 owner Bert Lina has committed to lend his players to the RP team regardless of obstacles involved, PBL commissioner Chino Trinidad said the league will hopefully be able to form a highly-competitive team from the amateur materials available.

"That was a very noble gesture on the part of Mr. Lina but we don't want to strain Air21's relationship with the PBA. The good thing is that at least Air21 showed concern for the national team. That is really commendable," Chino said.

After the SBP meeting last week, the PBL teams addressed the problem at hand by agreeing to lend their players to the national team.

"With the PBL owners making their players available, okay *na kami*. I think the RP team will be highly competitive."

* * *

Initially, PBA OIC Sonny Barrios was willing to stay on the job for as long as needed.

"I wanted to, but my partners in business and my wife have already been complaining about the job that I have left unattended.

"*Nahihiya na ko sa kanila,*" Sonny said.

Sonny said nominations for the post of PBA commissioner are slow in trickling in.

* * *

So far there are only six nominees from four ball clubs.

According to Sonny, the board has agreed not to reveal the names of the nominators.

"Just the nominees and these are—in no particular order—Lambert Ramos, Chito Salud, Patrick Gregorio, Arben Santos, Carlo Singson, and Ricky Palou," Sonny announced.

"Nominations will be accepted only up to Nov. 23," he said.

Incidentally, a colleague questioned the criteria used for choosing the next commissioner.

He thinks integrity (10%) should be given a greater value instead of marketing know-how (40%).

Gerry's Grill triumphs

GIO SIA KNOCKED IN TWO CHARITIES WITH only seven seconds left to power Gerry's Grill of Jerome Ngo to a 74-73 win over Nichi and into the finals of the 2007 Vanz Basketball League 2nd Invitational Cup (Division B) recently at the Phil. Buddhacare Academy gym in Quezon City. The Grill Specialists proved to be the steadier team as they unnerved Nichi with their full court press in the dying seconds to snatch the win. Gerry's Grill, which supports the PBL, hopes to win its first sporting title when it battles Supreme Energy for the crown today starting at 7:30 p.m. "This is our first sporting venture, so I hope it's going to be a memorable one," said Ngo.

OLYMPIC FESTIVAL

Iloilo champs flex muscles

By June Navarro

ILOILO, THE VISAYAS QUALIFYING overall titleholder, struck with victories in table tennis, football and chess on the second day of competitions in the 2nd Philippine Olympic Festival national championships yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Sports Center.

Juliette Gayoso, a Palarong Pambansa double-gold medalist, posted two easy triumphs in the girls' table tennis under-17 while Kier Patrick Jalan boosted Iloilo's cause in the boys division of the same discipline by walloping Wallover Alvarez of Pateros.

Gayoso, 15, crushed Henessey Aragon of Pateros, 11-8, 11-4, 11-5 and cruised to an 11-4, 11-8, 11-4 win over Michelle Lumague following Jalan's 11-4, 11-5, 11-3 victory over Alvarez.

"I prepared hard for this," said Gayoso, a third-year high school student from Central Philippines University who won the gold in the 2005 and 2006 editions of the Palaro.

"This will be my ticket to the national team and I'm not going to let it slip away."

Misamis Oriental, which earned the distinction of seizing the first gold of the games via forfeiture in baseball, also took it strong in table tennis with Sergio Benoya and Janine Dy getting a share of the limelight.

Part of the Misamis Oriental squad that captured the 2006 Palarong Pambansa team gold, the 13-year-old Dy ripped Pasig City's Ruth Capatan, 11-2, 11-7, 11-7 before sending Camelle Valle of Cavite to a 11-4, 11-1, 11-1 defeat.

"I don't want to pressure myself—I'll just play my best and see what happens," said Dy, a first-year high school from Corpus Christi School.

Misamis gained headway in basketball after the Cagayan de Oro dribblers walloped Quezon City, 101-73, in Game 1 of their best-of-three title showdown.

The host of the Visayas qualifying games also led the way in the chess boys' open category after Cesar Mariano halved the point with Laguna's Rodolfo Panopio Jr. after three rounds of the week-long event.

General Santos City, Cavite, Laguna and Taguig also sparkled in chess with siblings Sheider and Annie Mae Nebato still undefeated after three rounds in the boys' under-20 and girls under-14 categories for the country's tuna capital.

Sheider Nebato subdued Cagayan De Oro's John Vincent Cayaba to earn a total of three points while Annie Mae Nebato halved the point with Cavite's Marie Antoinette San Diego to tie San Diego with 2.5 points.

Laguna's Kathryn Manaog downed Joyce Marie Mariano in the girls' open and Homel Aristotle Cunanan bested Misamis Oriental's Tristan Frech Ibaoc in the boys' under-14. Manaog and Cunanan compiled three points each after three rounds.

In football, Jeffrey Domicillo scored two hard-earned goals as Iloilo blanked Negros Occidental, 5-0, while Davao defeated Camarines Sur, 1-0, in the under-15 division.

Hostilities will shift to full gear today as competition in medal-rich athletics, archery and aquatics begin today. Athletics will be held at the Rizal track and field oval while the state-of-the-art Trace Aquatics Center in Los Banos, Laguna hosts the four-day swimming event.

El Habid leads MVP roll in Alaska Cup

EZO EL HABID WON MVP HONors in the men's division after helping Baguio Tiger Football Club defend its title recently at the Alaska Cup 2007.

In the boys' 10-under class, Roynick Bernardo was adjudged the MVP after spearheading Tamasak Football Club's title drive against Sacred Heart-Cebu.

In the girls 12-under division, Ateneo de Davao striker Erika Turtur was named best player in the tournament that drew more than 3,500 players spread over 250 squads.

Makati Football Club took home the lion's share of championships. The club won first place in five different classes.

Fares Sorial was the top player in the boys' 8-under after powering Makati Football School past Tamasak. Jacobo Lorenzo was named MVP in the boys 16-under division for Makati FC.

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EZO EL Habid (middle) zigzags his way past defenders en route to a goal.

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SPORTS

Celtics match best start in 20 years

Marbury packs bags, orphans Knicks; Bobcats thwart Heat

INDIANA—THE UNDEFEATED BOSTON Celtics matched their best season start in 20 years, notching a sixth straight win with a 101-86 road victory over the Indiana Pacers on Tuesday.

Paul Pierce led the way with 31 points, 11 rebounds and six assists, and was 14-for-14 from the foul line as the Celtics equaled the franchise's best start since 1987-88 in remaining the only team yet to lose this season.

Boston's best start is 14-0, set in 1957-58.

"I have a great cast around me," said Pierce, whose team acquired Kevin Garnett and Ray Allen in trades during the off-season.

"These guys are fun to be around. Not just as basketball players, but also good guys off the court.

"You know you can't win all the games, but when you have a locker room like this, it makes it easier."

Garnett had 18 points and 11 rebounds and has had a double-double in all six games. Allen scored 15 points in the third quarter after being held scoreless in the first half.

At one point during the second quarter, Pierce was angered by a hard foul by Indiana's Jamaal Tinsley and did push-ups on the court between his free throws to taunt the Indiana crowd.

"I was a little frustrated," Pierce said. "I thought it was a flagrant foul. I got hit on the back of the head."

The game was tied at the time and Pierce scored 13 points before the end of the half to put Boston in control.

The Celtics trailed by six points on three different occasions in the first quarter, their largest deficit of the season. They have only won one game by fewer than 10 points.

In Phoenix, New York guard Stephon Marbury was absent from the Knicks' game against the Suns, raising doubts about his future with the team.

Marbury, who has two years to run on his contract, missed the morning shoot-around that preceded the Knicks' 113-102 loss to the Suns.

The online edition of the New York Post said Marbury met with coach Isiah Thomas before flying back to New York.

The newspaper said it had received a message from Marbury saying he had permission from Thomas to leave the team.

"I would never leave my team on my own," he said "I got permission to leave from Isiah. He said I could go home."

In other games, it was Charlotte 91, Miami 76; Orlando 103, Seattle 76; Memphis 105, Houston 99; Dallas 99, Philadelphia 84; San Antonio 107, LA Lakers 92 and Portland 102, Detroit 94

In Orlando, Florida, Rashard Lewis scored 22 points against his former team, and Orlando handed Seattle its league-worst eighth straight loss.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Gerald Wallace scored 19 points and Jason Richardson added 18 to lead Charlotte to the win over Miami.

Reuters, AP

GAME TODAY
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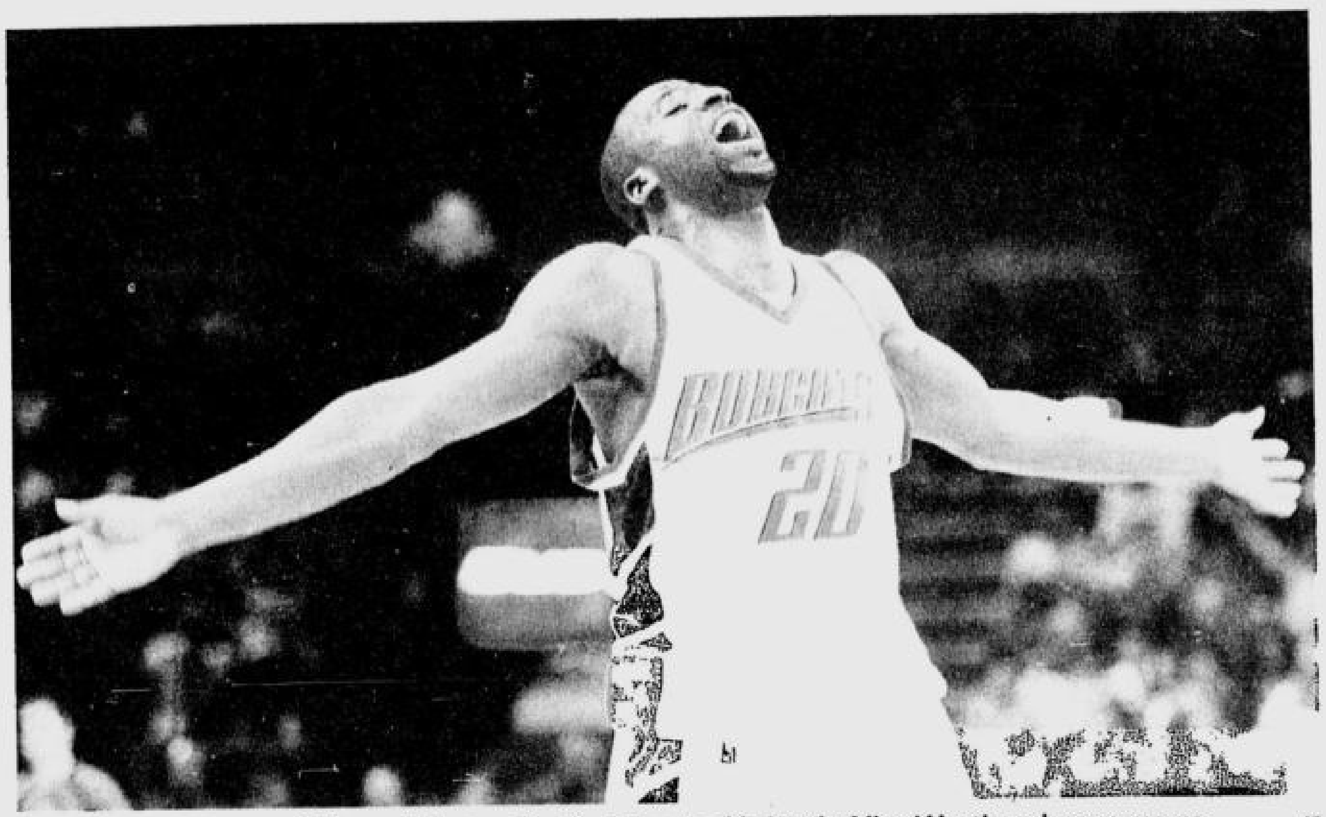
(*replay at 9 p.m.*)



CHARLOTTE'S Raymond Felton celebrates after the Bobcats added to the Miami Heat's early season woes. AP

RP-Harbour Centre stuns S'pore

From page A25

two 6-foot-10 centers.

The 6-foot-4 Cruz posted game-high 23 points and 12 rebounds that enabled the Filipinos to hold the Slingers to a slight 57-54 edge off the boards.

Another revelation was Ateneo recruit Chris Tiu, whose jumper knotted the count for the first time at 75.

Forced to play small forward as fouls hampered their wingmen, the 5-foot-11 Tiu had to contend with 6-foot-8 Ben Knight when Baculi opted for a very tiny roster also featuring Castro, Vergara, Salangsang and Cruz in the fourth quarter.

Baculi will send scouts to nearby Johor Bahru in Malaysia to watch on the Malaysians, who'll be facing the National Basketball Conference-Spring selection Wednesday.

NOTES: The team was treated to Filipino cuisine by Noel Perdigon and Pen Villanueva, who operate 7,107 Flavours, a cozy restaurant at the Marina Square. Mikee Romero was accompanied by lovely wife Sheila here.

The scores:

RP-HARBOUR CENTRE 100—Cruz 23, Castro 16, Salangsang 12, Vergara 11, Alonzo 7, Tiu 7, Crisano 6, Belga 4, Dela Cuesta 3, Bautista 2, Cabahug 0, Chan 0, Tan 0

SINGAPORE SLINGERS 93—Allen 15, Janev 15, Helms 13, Fitzgerald 11, Cameron 9, McDonald 9, Knight 9, Grizzard 8, Donaldson 0

Quarters: 12-23; 39-50; 67-72; 100-93

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.: 1044 Series of 2007

Upsets rock Masters Cup in China anew

SHANGHAI, CHINA—THERE WAS no time for friendship Tuesday at the Masters Cup. Just ask second-ranked Rafael Nadal and No. 3 Novak Djokovic.

Both lost to off-court buddies in the round-robin phase of the season-ending tournament that features the top eight men's singles players.

Nadal lost to David Ferrer, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3, while the weary Djokovic lost to Richard Gasquet of France, 6-4, 6-2, and was eliminated from contention for the semifinals with one match left in the Gold Group.

In the Red Group, top-ranked Roger Federer and No. 4 Nikolay Daydenko lost their first matches Monday and will play each other Wednesday, followed by Andy Roddick against Fernando Gonzalez.

Nadal said there are really no upsets here, considering the elite nature of the field.

"We play against the best always, every match, so anything can happen," Nadal said after his nearly three-hour struggle against Ferrer that divided the loyalties of Spanish fans, who draped several of their national flags around the indoor arena.

"We have a very good relationship," Nadal said. "But when you are on court, you try your best."

Nadal held a 4-2 advantage in head-to-head meetings. Ferrer said his only advantage against the man he called the best player in Spanish history comes when they face off in video games.

"Just in the PlayStation I'm better than him," Ferrer said, laughing.

With Nadal a lefty, the two men played like mirror images with their preference for the baseline, sharply angled winners and refusal to give up on almost every shot.

AP

Richard Gasquet kisses Novak Djokovic's hopes goodbye. AFP

Spring trips Hong Kong nat'l squad

JOHOR, MALAYSIA—THE NBC-Spring Cooking Oil Selection ripped Hong Kong's national team, 90-61, Tuesday in the 2007 Johor Invitational basketball tournament at the Larkin indoor stadium here.

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and Tagaytay Mayor/league EVP Bambol Tolentino got a huge lift from Montaña Pawnshop-Davao's Henry Fernandez and Ronald Lamocha, who combined for 32 points.

Nani Epondulan and Niño Marquez added 13 points apiece for the NBC-Spring squad.

The Filipinos outgunned the Crown Colony cagers, 15-9, in the first quarter and never looked back as they continued to hit their perimeter shots.

"Our new players (Fernandez and Lamocha) gave us a big lift. This is a great start and we hope to continue our good showing against the Malaysians, who beat us 82-80, last month in Taiwan," said coach Boysie Zamar.

Another win here will give the Filipinos a good chance to land in the finals of the single round-robin tournament organized by Malaysia's National Basketball League.

Malaysia's national team drubbed Indonesia's Aspac, 93-77, and Singapore, represented by Home United, routed China's Parklane Club, 86-63, in the other opening matches.

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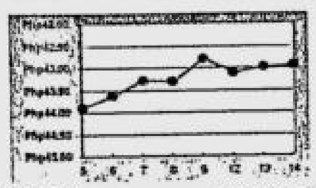

OCTOBER NOVEMBER

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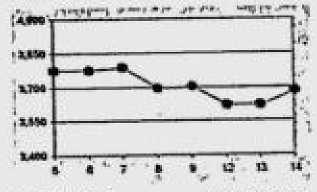
STOCK MARKET



OCTOBER NOVEMBER

(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks up 2.3%

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 2.3 PERCENT higher yesterday, buoyed by the overnight rebound on Wall Street, dealers said.

They said investors were encouraged by positive developments overseas and by the latest batch of corporate earnings, shrugging off security and political concerns sparked by a bomb attack at the House of Representatives late Tuesday.

The composite index rose 82.13 points to 3,681.62.

Gainers beat decliners 90 to 28 while 43 stocks ended unchanged.

Volume totaled 3.2 billion shares worth P4.9 billion. *AFP*

Farm output up 4.3% in 9 mos

Production grew 5.39% in 3rd quarter

By Amy R. Remo

DESPITE A DRY SPELL earlier in the year, the agriculture sector posted a 4.3-percent growth in production in the first three quarters compared to year-ago level.

In the third quarter alone, farm output rose by 5.39 percent, higher than the 4.08-percent growth recorded in the same period last year.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said he was confident that despite the dry spell's adverse impact on farm output in the first quarter, the department's full-year growth target of between 4.5 percent and 5 percent would be achieved.

After growing by only 3.3 percent in the first quarter, farm production registered a 4.09-percent increase in the second quarter.

In a briefing yesterday, the agriculture secretary said his department was hopeful that palay production would rise by 5 percent to meet its 16-million-metric ton target for the year. In 2006, palay production hit 15.3 million MT.

Corn production is likewise seen to grow by 10 percent this year from 6.08 million MT last year, Yap said.

Agriculture, which accounts for about a fifth of domestic economic output, saw all its sectors post growth in the first nine months of the year despite a prolonged dry spell that affected the main island of Luzon.

The crops sector, which mainly covers the staples rice and corn and which accounts for about 46.77 percent of agricultural production, rose by 4.17 percent during the period.

The fishery sector, which accounts for 26.3 percent of total agricultural production, led the growth in agriculture, rising by 7.92 percent.

Livestock rose by 2.06 percent while the poultry sector went up by 0.4 percent.

Agricultural Statistics Director Romeo Recide said that to attain the full-year 5-percent growth target, fourth quarter production should grow between 5 percent and 6 percent.

Growth drivers for the year, Recide said, would still be palay, corn and the fisheries sectors.

According to Yap, the agriculture

FARM/ B2

BSP seen cutting key rates today

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS IS expected to slash its benchmark interest rates by at least 25 basis points today given the controlled growth in money supply and a favorable inflation outlook through next year.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday said broad money supply or domestic liquidity growth for October likely ranged from 12 to 15 percent, well within its 20-percent limit which was considered necessary by the BSP to meet its inflation targets.

Tetangco also hinted that the benign inflation outlook could give the central bank greater flexibility in its monetary policy.

"The primary consideration for assessing the stance of monetary policy is the outlook on inflation and at this point in time, we believe that the inflation environment will continue to be favorable," Tetangco said.

"While there are risks, like higher oil prices, the actual inflation is way below the target range and for 2008, we believe that the inflation rate will be within the target range," he added.

The BSP is projecting inflation to settle at

BSP SEEN/ B2

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TOYOTA moving forward

SBMA registers $1.45B in investments

South Korea's Hanjin, KT Global are this year's top investors in free port

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT HAS SEcured some $1.45 billion in investment commitments in the nine months to September.

The amount was higher than the $1.42 billion recorded in the whole 2006.

In a statement issued yesterday, Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority Administrator Armand C. Arreza said 123 new business locators signed up during the period. Their projects would bring Subic's total cumulative investments to $5.22 billion.

"We've described 2006 as a banner year for Subic. That was the year when we bagged Hanjin Heavy Industry's $1-billion shipyard project. It appears, however, that we are going to top that record," Arreza said.

"As of end-September, we have already surpassed by some $30 million the total investment commitments for the whole year last year, " Arreza added.

He said the SBMA's aggressive business promotion campaign had fueled the steady rise of investments in the free port in the past two years.

This year, it was also South Korean firm Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Corp.-Philippines that delivered the biggest new investment. This involved a capital outlay of another $684 million to cover increased orders for vessels.

Another Korean investor, KT Global Subic Inc., signed up in July for a high-rise complex worth $127 million.

In September alone, the SBMA approved 26 new investment projects worth $4.5 million which, according to the SBMA market research and planning department, were expected to create at least 600 new jobs.

The biggest project approved in September was Millennium Properties' $1-million hotel and restaurant project.

Of the 10 biggest projects approved in September, eight were owned by Korean investors.

Also, the SBMA-MRPD reported that as of the third quarter, the Subic Bay Freeport Zone has a total active workforce of 70,179, dropping slightly from the 70,408 total recorded in August.

The slight drop was due to a decrease in worker deployment by port contractors who had already completed their projects in Subic, the department said.

Of the total workforce, 43 percent come from Olongapo City; 22 percent from Zambales; 14 percent from Bataan; 6 percent from the National Capital Region; 3 percent from Pampanga; and 12 percent from other areas.

AGRICULTURE Secretary Arthur C. Yap (left) and Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales (2nd from right) inspect the proposed 6,000-square meter site for the Programang Gulayan ng Masa in Barangay 128 Smokey Mountain in Tondo, Manila. The project is a priority initiative of the Department of Agriculture under the Accelerated Hunger Mitigation Program of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

PAL first-half profit still up despite Q2 loss of $11.8M

PHILIPPINE AIRLINES INCURRED A NET loss of $11.8 million in July to September 2007, but still emerged with a profit of $22.7 million for the first half of its 2007-2008 fiscal year.

The first-half profit represents a 107-percent increase over year-ago results.

The July-to-September period, corresponding to the second quarter of PAL's fiscal year that starts in April, covers the low travel season of the year. PAL traditionally posts a loss during these rainy months.

This year's second-quarter loss of $11.8 million was 89 percent higher than the $6.2 million loss recorded in same period in 2006, due mainly to higher aircraft maintenance and fuel expenses, PAL said in a report filed yesterday with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Fuel, alone, accounted for $108.2 million of PAL's total expenses of $365.9 million for the quarter, making it the airline's single biggest expense item.

However, there were some bright spots in the second-quarter report. Revenues ex-

PAL FIRST-HALF/ B6

PRCI board facing new suit

FILIPINO MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS OF Philippine Racing Club Inc. have filed a complaint against the company's directors and majority owners for their alleged refusal to open for examination documents pertaining to certain transactions.

The complaint was filed by PRCI shareholders Aristeo Puyat, Jose Santos, Eric Borja, Adolito Flores and Jose Alexander Carandang with the Makati Regional Trial Court.

The Puyat, Santos and Carandang families are known racehorse owners who have substantial investments in the operation of the Sta. Ana racetrack.

Subject of the complaint are PRCI directors Santiago Cua Sr., Santiago Cua Jr., Solomon Cua, Exequiel Robles, the Magnum nominees and PRCI corporate secretary Jesulito Manalo.

The complaint is the second legal action taken by the Filipino minority shareholders against the Cua group.

The Makati Regional Trial Court earlier slapped a permanent injunction against the group following a derivative suit filed by the minority shareholders who questioned PRCI's purchase of JTH Davies Holdings and attempt to swap the shares of the said firm with ownership of the P10-billion Sta. Ana racetrack.

In the new complaint, the Puyat-led PRCI shareholders alleged that the Cua group refused to show them the documents pertaining to the remuneration and compensation for PRCI directors, corporate officers and committee members for 2006 up to the present.

The Puyat group also complained that there were discrepancies on the dates and descriptions between documents they had requested and those actually furnished them. The were also not allowed to photocopy the said documents, the shareholders alleged.

The alleged action of the Cua group, they added, were "violations of the basic right of the plaintiffs to gain information about their investments and protect their individual interests."

Among the documents requested by the Puyat group were the minutes of meetings and records pertaining to the exchange of the Sta. Ana racetrack with the shares of JTH Davies Holdings.

DOF stands by decision on cigarette tax issue

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE SAID IT had so far found no reason to reverse its earlier ruling to impose a lower tax on the Pall Mall brand of cigarettes despite appeals by competitors.

"We are confident in our decision and, so far, there is no compelling reason to reverse it," Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr., in charge of legal and revenue operations, told reporters yesterday.

Mendoza said, however, that the DOF was awaiting comments from the Bureau of Internal Revenue on the appeals made by British American Tobacco, owner of the Pall Mall brand, and its competitors.

He said the DOF was expected to have a decision on Pall Mall taxation before the scheduled congressional inquiry on cigarette taxation on Nov. 27.

The BIR decided in February to impose an excise tax of P26.06 per pack on Pall Mall, which prompted BAT to file a complaint with the DOF.

In July, the DOF reversed the BIR ruling and said the appropriate tax on Pall Mall was only 6.74 per pack. BAT's competitors filed an appeal before the DOF and said a cut on Pall Mall's tax rate was against the provisions of the Sin Tax law of 2005.

Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc., Fortune Tobacco Corp., Japan Tobacco International Philippines Inc., and Associated Anglo-American Tobacco Corp. said that because Pall Mall used to be imported by duty-free shops, it should be charged the higher excise tax rate.

Under the Sin Tax Law of 2005, imported cigarettes are slapped higher excise taxes.

The competitors of BAT also said the BIR's ruling should be final . They said a downward tax reclassification of cigarettes was prohibited under the Sin Tax Law.

BAT stressed there was no downward reclassification because the BIR's ruling was not made final and was not implemented, having been immediately reversed by the DOF.

BSP seen cutting key rates today

From page B1

between 2.6 and 3.1 percent this year, lower than the the official target of 4-5 percent.

The inflation rate, which measures the rise in average consumer prices based on a basket of goods consumed by a typical household, is expected to range between 3 and 4 percent in 2008.

The growth of money supply at more than 20 percent in the past months, due to strong inflows of overseas Filipino remittances, was a big concern for the BSP. But with the offering of high-yielding special deposit accounts, the BSP was able to slow down domestic liquidity growth.

Based on the latest BSP report, growth in broad money supply further slowed down to 11.4 percent year-on-year in September from 14.9 percent in August.

Domestic liquidity is the broadest measure of money and is used to estimate the entire supply of money within an economy, including money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

The BSP slashed its overnight rates for the second time this year in October to 5.75 percent for overnight borrowings and to 7.75 percent for overnight lending.

Analysts and economists expect the BSP to cut its overnight rate by at least another 25 basis points today.

In a commentary dated Nov. 5, Citigroup Philippine economist Jun Trinidad said the potential rate cut today would bode well for economic growth.

"The interest-sensitive sectors of the economy such as construction, real estate and investment would be given another boost this quarter, which could enhance nonfarm job creation," Trinidad said.

Otherwise, Trinidad said an unchanged interest rate differential (versus US rates) could spawn expectations of additional offshore portfolio flows that would unnecessarily cause the peso to strengthen ahead of the conversion of yearend remittance flows.

"The government's interest bill could decline further with lower policy rates. The equity and bond markets would cheer another rate cut," he said.

Farm output up ...

From page B1

sector's impressive performance was due to the timely implementation of measures to boost yields and contain the adverse effects of climate change.

These include the quick turnaround planting program, which added to total palay harvests 300,000-350,000 MT, compensating for the losses inflicted by the dry spell.

Under the QTA planting program, nearly 100,000 hectares of additional land in the Visayas and Mindanao were planted to palay.

Yap also said the use of hybrid and certified seeds, and the provision of post-harvest facilities in major rice and corn-producing provinces in the country had contributed to the third quarter growth.

In the third quarter alone, the biggest gainer was the fisheries sector, recording a 9.57-percent growth, followed by the crops sector with a 6.25-percent growth.

During the quarter, the growth in palay production slowed down to 4.68 percent from last year's 12.63 percent, while corn output surged by 13.96 percent, up from last year's 1.13 percent growth.

With a report from AFP

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VIEWING DATE: NOVEMBER 16, 2007 (FRIDAY) FROM 9AM-6PM
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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education – Division of Camarines Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Constructors/Contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Location	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract
LOT 1	DepED, Camarines Sur	Construction of 1 unit 2-storey 6 Classrooms School Building Construction of 1 unit 1 Classroom 7x7 Repair of 3 units School Building	P6,875,625.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years with bidder's Largest Single Contract of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Funding Source: Calamity Assistance and Rehabilitation Efforts (CARE)

Contract Duration: One Hundred Eighty (180) Calendar Days

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Advertisement/Posting	November 15 - 21, 2007
2. Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI)	November 15 - 21, 2007 until 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat Office
3. Eligibility Check	November 23, 2007, 10:00 AM, DEPED Conference Hall
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 21 - 27, 2007
5. Pre-bid Conference	December 5, 2007, 1:00 PM DEPED Conference Hall
6. Submission and Opening of Bids	December 6, 2007, 10:00 AM, DepED Cam. Sur Division Conference Hall
7. Bid Evaluation	December 11, 2007
8. Post-qualification	December 12 - 17, 2007
9. Notice of Award	December 20, 2007

Bid Documents will be available from the Office of the BAC Secretariat only to eligible bidders upon presentation of Receipt of payment of a non-refundable amount of P6,000.00 from the DEPED - Camarines Sur Cashier.

The DEPED - Camarines Sur assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) EUFROSINA P. SABANDO, Ph. D.
Acting BAC Chairman

(PDI–November 15 & 21, 2007)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education – Division of Camarines Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites Bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Location	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract
LOT 1	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 1,575/3,150 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 44	P 3,352,400.00
LOT 2	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 1,025/2,050 Sec. Armchairs - 1,450 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 69	P 3,531,940.00
LOT 3	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 1,050/2,100 Sec. Armchairs - 1,250 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 63	P 3,325,800.00
LOT 4	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 425/850 Sec. Armchairs - 1,338 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 187	P 3,390,700.00
Lot 5	DepED Camarines Sur	Elem. Tables & Chairs - 425/850 Sec. Armchairs - 900 Teacher's Tables & Chairs - 71	P 2,566,560.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 5 years with bidder's Largest Single Contract of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Funding Source: Government of the Philippines (GOP), 2006 General Appropriation Act (GAA)

Contract Duration: One Hundred Twenty (120) Calendar Days

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

A bidder can participate in any or all the lots but upon winning a lot, he/she is automatically disqualified in other lots.

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Advertisement/Posting	November 15 - 21, 2007
2. Issuance of Bid Documents	November 22 - 27, 2007
3. Pre-bid Conference	December 5, 2007, 9.00 a.m. DEPED Conference Hall
4. Submission and Opening of Bids	December 7, 2007, 10:00 a.m. DepED Cam. Sur Division Conference Hall
5. Bid Evaluation	December 10, 2007
6. Post-qualification	December 11, 2007
7. Notice of Award	December 18, 2007

Bid Documents will be available from the Office of the BAC Secretariat to bidders upon presentation of Receipt of payment of a non-refundable amount of P3,000.00 from the DEPED - Camarines Sur Cashier.

The DEPED - Camarines Sur assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by
(Sgd.) EUFROSINA P. SABANDO, Ph. D.
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 15 & 21, 2007)

PNOC, PNOC-EDC settle land dispute

By Abigail L. Ho

LISTED FIRM PNOC Energy Development Corp. has approved the sale to the Philippine National Oil Co. of a piece of land worth almost P1.7 billion, effectively settling a land dispute between them.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, PNOC-EDC investor relations manager Erudito Recio said the parcel of land to be sold covers 29,291 square meters and is within the Energy Center at Fort Bonifacio in Taguig.

Both PNOC and PNOC-EDC hold office within the Energy Center compound, which also hosts the offices of the Department of Energy and PNOC subsidiaries.

The PNOC-EDC board approved the sale of the property at P57,000 a square meter, to be paid from proceeds of the PNOC shares in PNOC-EDC that will be sold to the private sector on Nov. 21.

"Upon the implementation of the sale, the dispute between PNOC and PNOC-EDC on the right of PNOC to acquire the said property from PNOC-EDC would finally be resolved and settled," Recio said.

PNOC-EDC is now in the process of being privatized, with five groups in the running to secure the government's remaining 60 percent stake in it.

The five groups are ACR-AEI Holdings Inc., FDC Geo-Energy Holdings Inc., AP Renewables, Red Vulcan Holdings Corp. and Panasia Energy Holdings Inc.

The five prequalified entities have until 9 a.m. of Nov. 21 to submit their bids for a controlling stake in PNOC-EDC.

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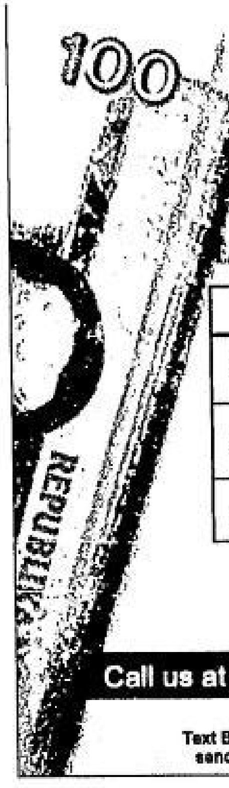
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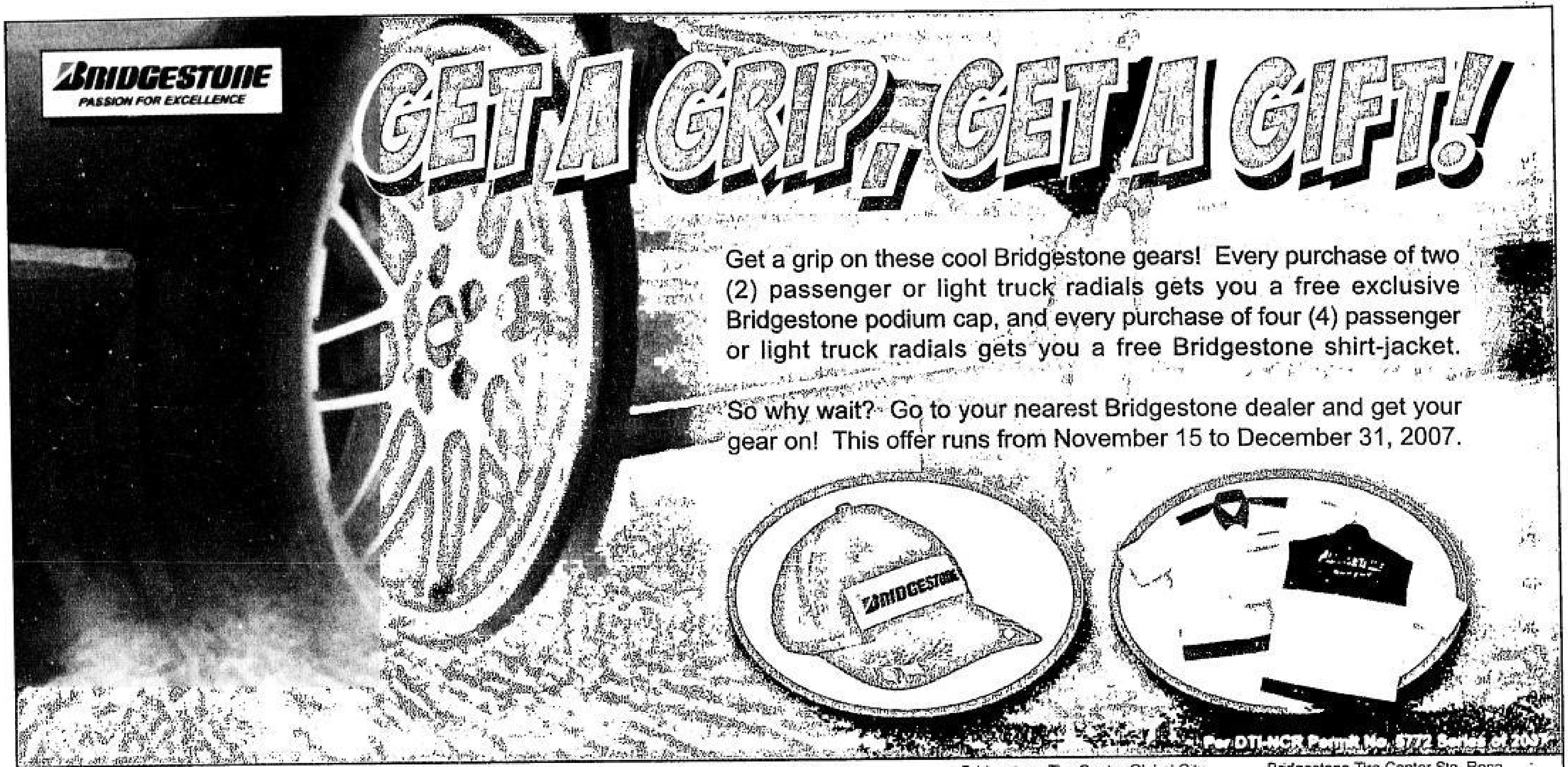
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SM Prime buys Sy family's China malls for P10.8B

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

RETAIL GIANT SM PRIME HOLDings Inc. (SMPH) is acquiring the Sy family's three malls in China for roughly P10.8 billion through a share-swap scheme.

In a briefing yesterday, SM Prime executive vice president Jeffrey Lim said the mall operator would still focus on expanding its malls in the provinces but has decided to also gain a foothold in China's fast-growing economy and use this as a platform for long-term growth.

The proposed acquisition will be effected through a share-swap whereby SM Prime will issue 913 million new shares to the Sy family, which will give them 2 percent of the mall operator.

In exchange, SM Prime will get 100 percent ownership of the China malls.

Shoemart Inc., the private investment firm of the Sy family and SM Investments Corp., the Sy group's flagship company, own a combined 70 percent of SM Prime.

SM Prime earlier tapped Citigroup Global Markets Ltd. and Macquaries Securities (Asia) Pte. Ltd. as its financial advisers for the acquisition and Savills Valuation and Professional Services Ltd. as independent asset appraiser.

The SM malls in China are similar to SM malls in the country and are located in the southern and western parts of China, particularly in Xiamen, Jinjiang and Chengdu.

First to open in December 2001 was its 128,000-square-meter mall in Xiamen, almost similar to the size of SM City Sta. Mesa. SM Jinjiang opened in November 2005 with a gross floor area of 170,000 sq.m. while SM Chengdu was launched last October 2006, with a similar GFA as Jinjiang.

"While SM Prime continues to expand its operations in the Philippines, its planned acquisition of the China malls will provide its shareholders the opportunity to tap and take advantage of the high growth prospects offered by China, being Asia's growth leader," SM Prime president Hans Sy said in a statement.

SM Prime hopes to sign an agreements with the Sy family in connection with the deal in the first quarter of 2008 and complete the acquisition after securing regulatory approvals by the first half of next year.

SMIC to invest P26B in tourism, malls

SM INVESTMENTS CORP., THE flagship company of Henry Sy said it would pour in roughly P26 billion in capital for projects, the bulk of which will go to property, tourism and mall development, an SMIC official said.

In a briefing yesterday, SMIC executive vice president Jose Sio said roughly P15.6 billion would be spent for property development.

Out of this budget, about P7 billion may be funded by peso borrowings with the balance to come from cash from operations, Sio said.

He added that of the planned capital outlay, about P6 billion will be set aside for mall expansion next year.

SMIC's retail and banking businesses will have a capital budget of P2 billion and P2.3 billion, respectively.

Sio said the retail group would reinforce its dominance in the sector by expanding in SM malls as well as areas outside the malls.

Currently, the retail group consists of 31 department stores, 29 supermarkets and 10 hypermarkets.

He added that banks will continue to benefit from consolidation of acquired assets after Banco de Oro's acquisition of Equitable PCI Bank.

Property development, which as of the nine-month period contributed 3 percent to total revenues and 8 percent to total net income, is seen as an emerging growth story by the group.

SMIC's property group consists of residential projects by SM Development Corp. (SMDC) and Highlands Prime Inc., commercial development in the Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City, the group's massive resort project Hamilo Coast and hotel investments.

Revenues of SMIC's real estate business in the nine-month period amounted to P2.2 billion, up 100 percent from the same period last year, while net income grew 16.7 percent to P700 million, due to residential condominium sales of SMDC. Moving forward, the property group will see additional revenue streams from commercial, tourism and hotel developments as projects are completed starting 2008.

The SMX Convention Center at the Mall of Asia complex in Pasay City opened last November. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

CORPORATE ROUNDUP

Jollibee income up 21.4%

FAST-FOOD GIANT JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP. said its net income rose 21.4 percent to P1.81 billion as of September from P1.49 billion in the same period last year.

Revenues during the first nine months grew 16.7 percent to P28 billion from P23 billion in the same period last year.

System-wide retail sales, a measure of all sales from company-owned and franchised stores, in the first nine months rose 14.5 percent to P37.5 billion, from P32.78 billion year-on-year.

Benpres posts lower income

BENPRES HOLDINGS CORP. REPORTED unaudited consolidated revenues of P14.512 billion in the first nine months of 2007, 14 percent higher than P12.687 billion in the same period last year.

However, net income attributable to equity holders of the parent for the period January-September was 10 percent lower at P2.676 billion from P2.981 billion in the same period last year.

This result is primarily due to the 30-percent fall in equity in net earnings of investees to P2.21 billion from P3.175 billion.

JG Summit nets P1.23B in Q3

JG SUMMIT RECORDED A NET INCOME OF P1.23 billion in the third quarter of the year bringing its net income for the nine months of 2007 to P5.07 billion from last year's P5.59 billion.

Last year's income included a P3.21-billion gain from sale of shares in Universal Robina Corp., its branded snacks foods arm.

Excluding such gain, JG Summit's recurring net income for the first nine months increased by as much as 113 percent compared to the recurring net income of P2.38 billion for the same period last year. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

Technology firm IPVG swings to profit

By Daxim L. Lucas

LISTED TECHNOLOGY FIRM IPVG Corp. has reported a sharp turnaround in its nine-month and third quarter profit performance driven by higher revenues from its communications, online gaming and business process outsourcing units.

Speaking to investors during the company's stockholders' meeting last Tuesday, founder and CEO Enrique Y. Gonzalez said that IPVG recorded a net income of P119 million in the first nine months of the year, compared to a P51-million loss reported in the same period in 2006.

For the third quarter alone, the company reported a net income of P51 million.

The company's net income as a proportion of revenues also increased to a record high of 27 percent during the third quarter.

"This demonstrates greater operating margins and efficiencies from continued economies of scale, as well as introduction of new high margin products and services targeting existing and new markets," he said.

Gonzalez said IPVG was on track to implement its regional expansion program for communications and online games business.

Its IP Converge Data Center Inc. unit has approved the acquisition of an Internet data center in Singapore and data center facilities in Hong Kong.

"With this, IPVG's communications business is positioned as a regionally integrated data center provider in Southeast Asia, and capable of satisfying the regional requirements of large multinationals and enterprises," he said.

IPVG will also enter Vietnam's online games market through Cyberworld Corp., a fully licensed online games publisher in Vietnam.

According to the company, Vietnam is comparable to the Philippines in terms of market size with 88 million people, 15 million Internet users and four million online gamers. Vietnamese gamers, however, produced more than double the gaming activity of Filipino gamers.

"This is an extremely exciting market for us," Gonzalez said. "IPVG has already generated revenues of P60 million during the third quarter in licensing deals from overseas markets."

PSE increases stake in PDS

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) is making an additional investment of P70 million in the Philippine Dealing System Holdings Corp. (PDS Group) as part of a strategic program to help develop the capital market.

"Our additional investment in the PDS Group not only reaffirms our commitment as a listed company to create long-term value for our shareholders, but also represents PSE's strategic thrust to develop our local capital market," PSE president Francis Ed. Lim said.

Vicente B. Castillo, president and CEO of PDS Group, added that the additional investment represented an even tighter collaboration between the two exchanges.

PDS Group provides the market infrastructure for the fixed-income market through its three operating units. Its electronic trading platforms are operated by the Philippine Dealing & Exchange Corp. (PDEx) with a year-to-date volume of P1.21 trillion and an average daily volume of P5.7 billion. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

CURRENCIES

November 14, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.684556	1.000000	43.0980
Japan	Yen	0.006171	0.009014	0.3885
United Kingdom	Pound	1.417922	2.071300	89.2689
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.087907	0.128414	5.5344
Switzerland	Franc	0.607414	0.887311	38.2413
Canada	Dollar	0.713898	1.042862	44.9453
Singapore	Dollar	0.473447	0.691611	29.8071
Australia	Dollar	0.609469	0.890313	38.3707
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.818694	2.656748	114.5005
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.183037	0.267380	11.5235
Brunei	Dollar	0.471815	0.689227	29.7043
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000075	0.000109	0.0047
Thailand	Baht	0.021718	0.031726	1.3673
UAE	Dirham	0.186477	0.272405	11.7401
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.460800	62.9576
Korea	Won	0.000745	0.001089	0.0469
China	Yuan**	0.092091	0.134526	5.7978
Denmark	Kroner	0.134209	0.196052	8.4494
India	Rupee	0.017454	0.025497	1.0989
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.204498	0.298730	12.8747
New Zealand	Dollar	0.517115	0.755401	32.5563
Sweden	Kroner	0.108169	0.158013	6.8100
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021194	0.030960	1.3343

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Nov. 13, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rate as of Nov. 13, 2007

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of November 14, 2007)

52-WKEE HIGH	52-WEEK LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
17.5	6.8	Asiatrust Development Bank Inc.	8.3	9.4	8.3	8.9	569,000
73	43	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	56.5	57.5	56.5	56.5	944,900
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	65	68	64.5	68	2,405,900
748	540	China Banking Corp.	690	705	685	705	2,480
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23.25	23.25	23.25	23.25	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	520,000
75.5	47.5	Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.	57	59	57	58	1,709,900
65.5	39	Philippine National Bank	45	45.5	45	45.5	26,600
68	46	Philippine Savings Bank	62	62	62	62	1,000
39.57	18.91	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	24.75	25.5	24.75	25	6,994,000
90	61	Security Bank Corp.	74	74	74	74	155,000
66	42	Union Bank of the Philippines	43.5	45	43.5	44	157,000
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.92	ATR KimEng Financial Corp.	4	4	4	4	510,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2	2	1.98	2	1,397,000
16.25	4.6	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	12.5	13.25	12.5	12.5	1,552,200
1.6	0.5	First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.18	1.04	1.04	1,940,000
42.5	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	40	42	40	42	4,000
5.9	4.9	I-Remit Inc.	5	5.3	5	5.3	3,569,000
5	2.85	National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3	3.2	3	3.05	4,174,000
3.1	1.3	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.82	1.82	1.82	1.82	26,000
1,390.00	241	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	1,150.00	1,200.00	1,140.00	1,150.00	4,760
2,500.00	1,970.00	Sun Life Financial Inc.	2,350.00	2,350.00	2,340.00	2,340.00	390
1.94	1.3	iVantage Corp.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	635,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp.	5.1	5.2	5	5.1	20,116,000
70.5	49	First Gen Corp.	60.5	61.5	60.5	61	650,400
92	51	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	76.5	77	76.5	76.5	2,805,100
17.5	8.8	Manila Water Co. Inc.	16.75	17	16.75	16.75	6,152,600
105.45	25.91	Manila Electric Co.	78	79.5	77.5	78.5	1,213,500
7.8	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.9	7.1	6.9	7.1	30,390,000
7.4	3.9	Petron Corp.	6.1	6.2	6.1	6.2	9,795,000
14.75	6.6	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	7.1	7.5	7.1	7.5	41,000
2.3	1	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp.	1.66	1.74	1.66	1.7	2,939,000
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	3.2	Alaska Milk Corp.	5.4	5.4	5	5	557,000
2.75	1.66	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.88	1.94	1.86	1.94	187,516,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	24.5	24.5	24	24	26,700
61	39	Jollibee Foods Corp.	47	48	47	47.5	1,064,500
9.1	5.7	Pancake House Inc.	8.5	9	8.5	9	7,036,000
0.98	0.5	RFM Corp.	0.74	0.74	0.74	0.74	70,000
3.6	2.06	Roxas Holdings	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.6	220,000
80	51	San Miguel Corp. "A"	53.5	53.5	51	52.5	121,800
88	53	San Miguel Corp. "B"	54	54	53.5	54	113,300
0.66	0.31	Swift Foods Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	20,000
6.5	3	Tanduay Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	15,000
20.75	13.75	Universal Robina Corp.	14	14	14	14	5,007,500
0.55	0.24	Vitarich Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	650,000
		CONSTRUCTION INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	2.64	EEI Corp.	5	5.2	4.9	5.2	1,766,000
9.2	4.95	Holcim Philippines Inc.	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.1	444,000
7	2.95	Republic Cement Corp.	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.6	24,000
2	0.58	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc.	1.04	1.08	1.04	1.06	1,479,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.75	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.3	4.45	4.3	4.4	428,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	0.17	Picop Resources Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	2,740,000
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	2.7	A. Soriano Corp.	3.3	3.4	3.3	3.35	83,000
0.185	0.0525	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.145	79,070,000
1.28	0.24	APC Group Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	1,520,000
3.65	1.5	ATN Holdings Inc. "A"	2.75	2.75	2.75	2.75	99,000
0.018	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "A"	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	20,000,000
0.019	0.0075	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. "B"	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,000,000
9.7	5.6	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.6	6.7	837,000
0.021	0.009	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.014	8,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5	5.1	4.95	5	35,790,000
1.38	0.55	Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.82	0.82	30,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.4	2.44	2.36	2.42	1,755,000
645	397.92	Ayala Corp.	575	605	575	590	196,850
5.8	1.56	Benpres Holdings Corp.	4.1	4.1	4.05	4.1	6,130,000
12	4.75	DMCI Holdings Inc.	10.5	11	10.5	11	806,000
6.9	1.08	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4	4	4	4	101,000
2.5	0.8	F and J Prince Holdings Corp. "A"	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	40,000
8	3	Filinvest Development Corp.	6.4	6.6	6.4	6.6	159,000
3.55	1.54	House of Investments Inc.	1.94	2	1.94	2	53,000
14.5	7.8	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	11	11	11	11	660,200
0.95	0.28	Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	200,000
11.5	1.48	Minerales Industrias Corp.	5.8	6.5	5.6	6.4	4,193,000
8.5	2.95	PAL Holdings Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	98,000
0.28	0.016	Pacifica Inc. "A"	0.21	0.23	0.205	0.225	328,500,000
0.75	0.19	Prime Orion Philippines Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.47	0.47	720,000
2.1	1.3	Republic Glass Holdings Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	61,000
452.5	268.53	SM Investments Corp.	357.5	367.5	357.5	357.5	165,480
0.73	0.13	Sinophil Corp.	0.36	0.36	0.34	0.36	6,000,000
1.06	0.61	Solid Group Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	10,000
2	0.9	South China Resources Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.48	1.48	9,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc.	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.3	14,560,000
		PROPERTY					
2.34	1	A Brown Co. Inc.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	265,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc	7.5	7.6	7.4	7.5	26,000
19.25	11.88	Ayala Land Inc.	16	16.5	16	16.5	11,461,800
1.88	1	Belle Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.28	1.28	1,066,000
4.7	2.9	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	20,000
2.04	1.56	Cebu Prop. Venture & Dev't Corp."A"	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	200,000
0.86	0.39	Crown Equities Inc.	0.61	0.62	0.61	0.62	1,230,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.38	2,360,000
0.99	0.52	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.76	0.77	0.76	0.76	8,200,000
0.47	0.055	Ever Gotesco Resources & Hold'gs Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.26	12,690,000
1.48	0.61	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1	1	0.99	0.99	3,210,000
2.44	1.28	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.58	1.66	1.58	1.64	22,747,000
1.12	0.31	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.56	0.58	0.56	0.57	900,000
4.6	1.86	Megaworld Corp.	3.95	4.15	3.95	4.1	44,887,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	5	5	4.85	4.85	161,000
5.2	2.2	Metro Pacific Investments Corp. - Warrants	3.7	3.8	3.7	3.75	428,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.33	0.35	0.32	0.32	9,450,000
23	14.5	Robinson Land Corp.	18.25	18.5	18.25	18.5	12,779,900
5.9	1.93	SM Development Corp.	4.1	4.15	4.1	4.15	797,000
13.5	7.6	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11	11.25	10.75	11	5,903,900
3.25	1.5	Shang Properties Inc.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	20,000
4.5	0.38	Sta. Lucia Land Inc.	2.3	2.46	2.26	2.26	347,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	170,000
0.49	0.09	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.27	2,310,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.85	5	6,342,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	18.75	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33.5	34	33	34	140,400
12	7.9	GMA Holdings Inc.	8.3	8.4	8.3	8.4	795,000
11.75	7.9	GMA Network Inc.	8.1	8.2	8.1	8.2	1,754,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.	1.34	1.4	1.34	1.4	412,000
1,750.00	1,180.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,640.00	1,700.00	1,640.00	1,675.00	208,170
3,285.00	2,250.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	3,005.00	3,055.00	3,005.00	3,030.00	67,470
8.1	5.5	Pilipino Telephone Corp.	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.2	1,896,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.39	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	1,060,000
12	2.1	Diversified Financial Network Inc.	10.25	11	9.9	9.9	581,000
11.5	2.5	IPVG Corp.	8.5	8.6	8.3	8.6	1,419,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.04	15,000,000
29.5	8.5	Imperial Resources Inc. "A"	15.5	15.5	15.5	15.5	5,000
5	1.62	Information Capital Tech. Ventures Inc.	3.95	3.95	3.95	3.95	23,000
2.9	1.48	Ionics Inc.	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	50,000
0.32	0.044	Island Information & Technology Inc.	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	4,930,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.36	1.36	776,000
0.0725	0.03	Philweb Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.0525	16,300,000
5.8	1.5	Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc.	2.9	2.95	2.85	2.9	235,000
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2,000
6.8	3.6	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	1,000
42.5	18.75	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc.	39	40.5	39	40	959,600
2.16	0.93	Keppel Philippines Marine Inc.	1.86	1.9	1.86	1.9	10,000
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.25	1.8	Leisure and Resorts World Corp.	2.6	2.65	1.9	2.5	1,450,000
1.16	0.32	Premiere Entertainment Prod Inc.	1.04	1.16	1	1.06	55,228,000
1.2	0.54	Waterfront Philippines Inc.	0.8	0.83	0.8	0.83	3,610,000
		EDUCATION					
950	650	Far Eastern University Inc.	850	850	850	850	30
3.7	2.6	iPeople Inc.	3.2	3.2	3.15	3.15	89,000
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	2	Macroasia Corp.	5	5.1	5	5.1	145,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	374,000
30	8.5	Paxys Inc.	8.7	8.9	8.6	8.7	3,036,000
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.011	0.01	0.011	91,500,000
7.3	3.6	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "A"	6	6.1	6	6.1	802,000
7.4	3.85	Apex Mining Co. Inc. "B"	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.3	180,000
21.25	7.8	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	14.25	14.5	14.25	14.5	1,439,300
14.25	8.9	Benguet Corp. "A"	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	11,300
12.75	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	10.5	11	10.5	10.5	550,900
3.1	0.6	Geograce Resources Philippines Inc.	2.1	2.14	2.04	2.08	73,221,000
0.48	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "A"	0.43	0.48	0.43	0.48	637,820,000
0.53	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. "B"	0.47	0.53	0.47	0.52	230,210,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. "A"	0.027	0.028	0.027	0.028	338,900,000
0.041	0.02	Manila Mining Corp. "B"	0.03	0.031	0.03	0.031	185,900,000
30	2	NIHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	21.75	22.5	21.5	22.25	4,342,100
0.021	0.0088	Omico Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	126,000,000
0.015	0.007	Omico Corp. - Warrants	0.009	0.0095	0.009	0.0095	131,000,000
11.25	3.5	Philex Mining Corp.	9.8	10.25	9.8	9.8	14,076,000
49	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	42	43	42	42	24,400
1.36	0.49	United Paragon Mining Corp.	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	120,000
1.8	0.69	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	175,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	2,850,000
0.029	0.0095	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "A"	0.024	0.025	0.023	0.023	133,800,000
0.03	0.01	Oriental Pet. & Minerals Corp. "B"	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	22,500,000
13.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	10	10.25	10	10.25	100,000
0.032	0.009	The Philodrill Corp.	0.028	0.029	0.027	0.028	139,400,000

AVERAGES			VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	926.66 UP	20.68	27,298,430	577,950,280 00
Industrial	4,371.88 UP	44.07	283,401,400	1,409,451,810 00
Holding Firms	2,104.68 UP	48.08	510,846,530	526,459,905 00
Property	1,649.85 UP	60.29	147,543,600	767,111,500 00
Service	1,831.29 UP	20.25	109,738,670	746,005,430 00
Mining & Oil	8,419.20 UP	328.79	2,003,922,000	852,365,640 00
All Shares Index	2,258.85 UP	38.66		
PSEi	3,681.62 UP	82.13		
		GRAND TOTALS	3,082,750,630	4,879,344,565 00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK PSE

LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

1598 M. H. del Pilar corner Dr. J. Quintos Streets, Malate, Manila
Tel. Nos. 522-0000; 526-0100 connecting all departments

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Land Bank of the Philippines invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project as stated below:

Item / Description	Approved Budget	Date/Time		Non-Refundable Fee
		Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline/ Opening o. Bids	
1 Lot Supply of Technical Supervision/ Expertise, Materials, Tools, Equipment and Labor for the Proposed Rehabilitation of Indoor Power Substation (Phase I) of LANDBANK Plaza, Malate, Manila	P18,227,000.00	November 22, 2007 2:00 PM	December 5, 2007 1:00 PM	P 9,200.00

The Bid Documents shall be available at the Procurement Department starting November 15, 2007 upon payment of the non-refundable fee indicated above.

A Pre-bid conference will be held at Procurement Department Bidding Room, 25th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza, 1598 M. H. del Pilar cor. Dr. J. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila.

Please address your queries to the Head-Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee, or call 405-7370; 551-0000 locals 2290 & 2293.

LANDBANK reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder(s).

(PDI - November 15, 2007) **BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**

Northern Samar Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Brgy. Magsaysay, Bubon, Northern Samar
MOBILE: (0917) 361974 FAX: (055) 251-816

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The NORTHERN SAMAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (NORSAMELCO) has received a subsidy from the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The proceed of subsidy is for construction of line under the Rural Electrification Program.

Interested parties are hereby invited to a Pre-qualification and Sealed Bidding for the supply of hereunder project:

Project	Construction of line for 10 barangays under AWP '07
Location	Norsamelco coverage area
Contract	Supply of labor and Materials per Barangays
Amount	Php 11.22 M

Package	Description	
A	Supply of labor and materials for 10 barangays	1 lot

Bid documents will be issued after passing the eligibility to bid and upon payment of Seven Thousand Pesos (Php7,000.00) non-refundable before the pre-bid conference. Detailed estimate, specification of materials and staking sheet for the above project is included in the pruchased bid document.

Acceptance of Letter of Intent	Nov. 20-23, 2007
Receipt of Eligibility requirement	Nov. 23-26, 2007
Issuance of Notice of Eligibility to bid	Nov. 26-29, 2007
Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 29, 2007 @ 10:00 a.m.
Opening of Bids	Dec. 18, 2007 @ 2:00 p.m.

Only qualified bidders who passed the pre-qualification screening will be allowed to participate in the bidding. Bid proposals must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in an acceptable form.

All bidders are required to conduct on site inspection of the 10 barangays prior to the opening of bids.

The PBAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility check and Screening as well as preliminary examination of bids. The PBAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest bid.

NORSAMELCO hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive/put aside any minor defects or infirmities therein or to accept such bid as may be considered most advantageous and responsive to the NORSAMELCO.

For further information, please contact the following nos. 0927-4976321 / 0917-3042869 / telefax 055-2518163.

(Sgd.) **NILO ESTOPA**
PBAC Chairman

(Sgd.) **SALVADOR G. HERNANDEZ**
General Manager

(PDI - Nov. 15 & 19, 2007)

Consumer Loans

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*Add-on interest rate. Only for 24-month term.
*Terms and conditions apply. See flyers for details.
Promo period: October 15 to November 30, 2007.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4292 Series of 2007.

We find ways

Business Leadership Forum

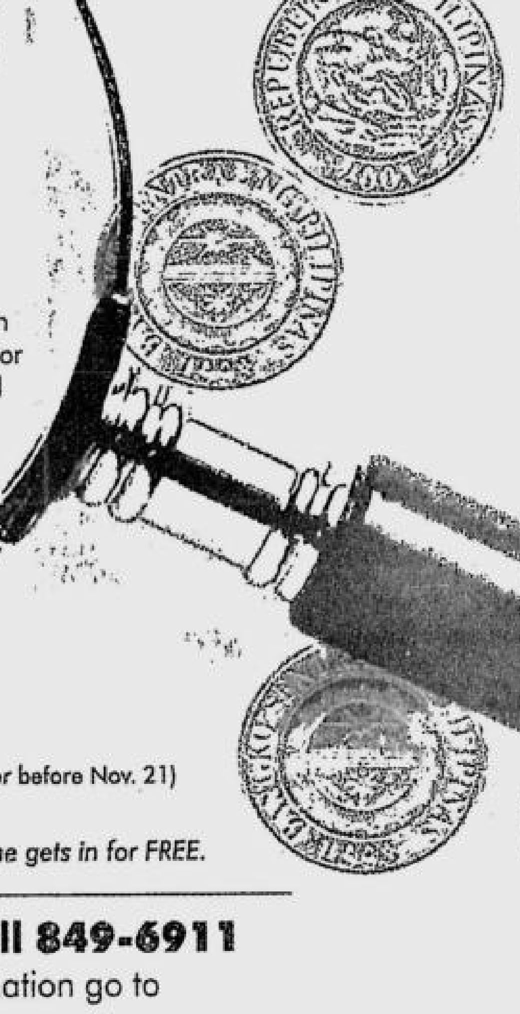
Ateneo de Manila University
John Gokongwei School of Management

Riches in Niches:

The art & science of discovering profitable new market segments

Why compete in traditional, oversaturated markets when out there are exciting new and relatively untapped market segments to go after?

Find out how you can get more customers with your own "Nouveau Niche" and be among the first to profit from it. Whether your market is on the worldwide web or standing on the nearest street corner, the affluent forward-thinking OFW or the thrifty, health-conscious American, you'll hear advice and true-to-life marketing experiences of speakers gathered together for the 8th Business Leadership Forum. It's the one chance you will have this year to prepare yourself for generating riches from new niches for your business.



Seminar Fees:
Early Bird Rate: Php 3,900 (if you register on or before Nov. 21)
Regular Rate: Php 4,500
Group Rate: for every group of five participants, the fifth one gets in for FREE.

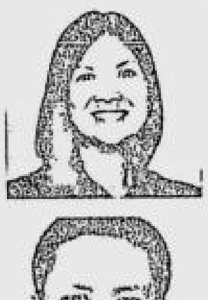
For inquiries and reservations, call 849-6911
For online registration and other event information go to
http://ateneoblf.registration.ph

"More than Just Sand, Surf and Shopping: Opportunities for the Philippines in Medical Tourism"
Mr. Robert F. Kuan, Chairman of the Board, St. Luke's Medical Center

Medical bills in the U.S. and Europe have risen so high that it now has become cheaper for westerners to fly to the East to seek medical care. Medical tourism has thus become one of the fastest growing global industries. With its pool of highly-trained medical practitioners and worldwide reputation for excellence in patient care, the Philippines is well-positioned to tap this global market opportunity. Find out how St. Luke's Medical Center has taken advantage of the worldwide surge in medical tourism, and how its dynamic Chairman, the legendary founder of the Chowking food chain, has spearheaded its drive to become a top-rated medical facility not just in the Philippines, but in the region.

"Best Practices and Opportunities in Online Advertising"
Ms. Rosalind Tan, Senior Sales Manager, Yahoo! Southeast Asia

Marketing messages are everywhere, flooding all the available media, including the internet. Many have tried to tap the online market with limited success. If not done well, your message can get drowned out by the heavy volume of online noise. The rapid convergence of internet services and interfaces has increased the challenges of maximizing opportunities in online advertising. But when done well, the rewards remain great. Find out how Ms. Rosalind Tan, Senior Sales Manager of Yahoo! Southeast Asia has steered Yahoo! to develop tailor-made, interactive solutions for its regional clients, including Nokia, Sony Ericsson, Samsung, HSBC and DBS; and find out how you, too, can successfully tap the young, wealthy and well-educated market that has gone increasingly online.



"Non-Traditional Ways of Reaching Your Target Segments"
Ms. Ma. Teresa D. Villanueva, President, AdBoard of the Philippines; Chief Executive Officer, Publicis Manila

With so many brands talking, how do you know if your customers are listening? Ms. Matec Villanueva holds the reins at Publicis Manila, the country's largest advertising agency, and shares with us her tips for laser-sharp targeting: making sure that our message does not just stand out in an increasingly congested marketplace, but that it also finds its way into the arms and ears of the market for which it was intended.

"The Fast and the Furious: Pushing Push-Button Digital Entertainment"
Mr. Jay Paolo de Leon Adevoso, Country Manager, LaNetro Zed Philippines

After "instant", "real time" has become the new standard for digital entertainment and community products. Nonstop innovation and media integration have brought mobile and internet services—from games and sounds to videos and blogs—to the next level. Discover how Mr. Jay Paolo Adevoso, Country Manager of LaNetro Zed Philippines, has developed local business for the global mobile network and how he has steered the company to become a high-growth Php1 billion revenue organization. Find out how the wireless community can be a lucrative new market for your company, or how you can use wireless technology to more creatively and cost-effectively reach your existing ones.

"Using Network Marketing as a Blue Ocean Strategy"
Mr. Josiah Go, President and CEO, Waters Philippines

Rather than the traditional audience of end-buyers, successful network marketing entails finding the right people to represent your company and your products. Companies can develop strong, profitable niches by creating a network of sellers, whether they be full-time or part-time, without having to spend on mass media. Find out how you can apply network marketing as a Blue Ocean Strategy through best-selling author Josiah Go, President and CEO of Waters Philippines and one of the most successful practitioners of network marketing in the Philippines. Josiah, who has held the position of Chairman of the Direct Selling Association as well as National President of the Philippine Marketing Association, is also the country's only qualified facilator of the Blue Ocean Strategy from the Blue Ocean Strategy Institute, Insead, France.

"Helping Overseas Filipinos Find Their Way Home: Marketing Real Estate to Overseas Filipinos"
Mr. Rex Ma. A Mendoza, Chairman, Ayala Land International Sales, Inc. and President, Ayala Land Sales, Inc.

The current boom in real estate is now currently attributed to overseas Filipinos who are investing their hard-earned money in the land of their birth. From condominiums to weekend homes, new houses to retirement communities, the opportunities for growth in real estate are booming, and Filipinos abroad have become a major market. Ayala Land is a key driver behind this boom, with its diverse product portfolio and its seasoned and well-travelled marketing team. Get insights on tapping the global Filipino from Rex Mendoza, the key executive leading Ayala's real estate sales and marketing efforts abroad, as he shares his experiences on successfully marketing Ayala Land's diverse projects to the Filipino diaspora.

Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City December 5, 2007 Wednesday 8am – 5pm

HEADQUARTERS
ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND, PHILIPPINE ARMY
DISPOSAL COMMITTEE
Fort Andres Bonifacio, Metro Manila

DISCOM 08 November 2007

NOTICE TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND DISPOSAL COMMITTEE invites interested parties and/or Junk Shop Owners to apply for Auction for four (4) lots consisting of ten (10) unserviceable vehicles and assorted scrap items stockpiled at Hqs 525TH EBn (S), PA located at Adventure Zone, Taguig City and at Army Support Command, Ft. Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

A Pre-Auction conference will be on *19 November 2007* at 2:00 PM at Army Support Command (ASCOM) Conference Room. Auction Proper will also be on *23 November 2007* at 2:00 PA Army Support Command, (ASCOM), Fort Bonifacio, Metro Manila.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures.

Eligible bidders must submit their Bids at Headquarters ARMY SUPPORT Command, Ft. Bonifacio, Metro Manila on or before the scheduled opening of Bids. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidder's representative who chose to attend.

Minimum Documents required:

1. Business permit
2. valid and current Mayor's Permit
3. DTI permit
4. BIR Tax Clearance
5. TIN

The Army Support Command, PA has the right to accept or reject any Bid, to cancel the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder(s).

FOR PARTICULARS PLS CONTACT THE SECRETARIAT, DISPOSAL COMMITTEE, ASCOM, PA AT TEL #845-9555 LOCAL 4445 and/or 4452.

Nvergara
RODOLFO C VERGARA
Lt. Colonel (OS) PA
Chairman

(PDI—Nov. 15 & 17, 2007)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC), through funds received from the Japanese Red Cross Society and other donors, invites interested Civil Works Contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Design and Construction of the Proposed PNRC Operation Center (OPCEN) Offices
Location	Ground Floor - The Philippine National Red Cross, National Headquarters, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, P.O. Box 280, Manila Philippines
Brief Description of Works	Preparation of Construction Drawings for the Proposed OPCEN consisting of the DMS Office, Briefing Room, Radio Room, ERU office, Call Center and Filing Room. Supply of materials, labor, tools, equipment and supervision required to complete the proposed OPCEN.
Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC)	P 3,000,000.00
Contract No. and Duration	Contract # PNRC __________ / 45 Calendar Days
Bidders Classification	Building and Industrial Plant – Small B

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with value of at least 50% of the ABC and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract.

The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

PNRC BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) and Issuance of Eligibility Documents	Starting Nov. 19, 2007 to Nov. 21, 2007 from 8:00 am up to 5:00 pm.
2. Deadline of Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	On or before 8:00 pm of Nov. 23, 2007
3. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	Nov. 26, 2007
4. Issuance of Bid Documents	Nov. 26 - 28, 2007 from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm
5. Inspection of Project site and Pre-Bid Conference	Nov. 28, 2007 @ 5:00 pm
6. Deadline of Receipt of Bids and Opening of Bids	Dec. 07, 2007 @ 2:00 pm

The BAC will issue Eligibility Documents at the Logistics Office, The Philippine National Red Cross, National Headquarters, Bonifacio Drive: Port Area, P.O. Box 280, Manila 2803, Philippines (Tel. No. 5270000), upon their submission of a LOI and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P 500.00 to the Cashier. Prospective bidders may submit to and obtain from the BAC accomplished Eligibility Documents and the result of the Eligibility Check respectively, at the above-mentioned address.

Eligible/Pre-qualified bidders may then acquire the Bid Documents at the same address upon presentation of the notice of eligibility and payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 to the Cashier.

The Philippine National Red Cross assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. It also reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) GWENDOLYN T. PANG
PNRC BAC Chairman

(PDI—Nov. 15, 2007)

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dti
TRADE & INDUSTRY
PHILIPPINES

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) in various currencies equivalent to Twelve million three hundred fifty thousand Special Drawing Rights (12,350,000 SDR) and intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this loan equivalent to Six million three hundred fifty-one thousand eight hundred forty pesos (Php 6,351,840.00) to eligible payments under this contract. Payment by the IFAD will be made only at the request of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and upon approval by the IFAD, and will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement. The Loan Agreement prohibits a withdrawal from the Loan Account for the purpose of any payment to persons or entities, or for any import of goods, if such payment or import, to the knowledge of IFAD, is prohibited by a decision of the United Nations Security Council taken under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations. No party other than the Government of the Philippines shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claim to loan proceeds.
2. The DTI now calls for the submission of *Letters of Intent (LOIs)* from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and short listing for consulting services for the establishment of baseline data of micro enterprises in nineteen (19) target provinces located in five (5) priority regions of the Philippines. Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before 23 November 2007 at the DTI Bids and Awards Committee (DTI-BAC) Secretariat, 6/F Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: 26 November 2007, 1:30 p.m. at the Center Conference Room, 6/F Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. Only those that are short listed will be entitled to submit bids.
3. The BAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The short list of prospective bidders shall consist of two (2) but not more than three (3) consultants. The criteria and rating system for short listing are:
    - a) Applicable experience of the consultant and associates in case of joint ventures, considering both the overall experiences of the firm and the individual experiences of the principal and key staff including the times when employed by other consultants (40%);
    - b) Qualification of personnel who may be assigned to the job vis-à-vis extent and complexity of the undertaking (35%); and
    - c) Current workload relative to capacity (25%).
4. In order to be included in the short list, a consultant must get a total score of at least 50%, with no rating below 50% for each criterion.
5. LOIs must be delivered by hand, through mail, or facsimile to the address below on or before 12 NN of 23 November 2007.
6. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

    The PROCURING ENTITY shall evaluate bids using the *Fixed Budget Selection* procedure. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
7. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the DTI Bids and Awards Committee (DTI-BAC) Secretariat at the address given below, Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
8. The contract shall be completed within three (3) months.
9. The DTI reserves the right to reject any and all bids, annul the bidding process, or not award the contract at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

DTI Bids and Awards Committee
Maynard R. Peralta
361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Tel. No. 751-5984; 751-0384 loc. 2604/2650
MaynardPeralta@dti.gov.ph
Fax No. 890-4870
www.dti.gov.ph

(Sgd.) MARIA LOURDES T. BAUA
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson
DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 15, 2007)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Philippine Sugar Center Bldg., North Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (02) 454-0254
Website www.nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of Purified Water at NFA Central Office for 2007

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA)*, through its *2008 Corporate Operating Budget* intends to apply the sum of *P500,000.00* being the Approved budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the ***supply and delivery of purified water at NFA Central Office from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.*** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NFA* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the supply and delivery of purified water at NFA Central Office from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB).**

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NFA-BAC SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P2,000.00 in the form of *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *November 27, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.***

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on December 11, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount In Percent of ABC
Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *December 11, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Board Room, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NFA* reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity	—	NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Contact Person	—	Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama
Address	—	Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue Diliman, Quezon City
Telephone/Fax No.	—	(632) 455 2758
Mobile Phone	—	(+63) 928 4102732
e-mail address	—	vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph
Website	—	www.nfa.gov.ph

(Sgd.) PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support
Services

(PDI - November 15, 2007)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632)920-6401 • (632)920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Website: http://www.sss.gov.ph

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

IAEB No. 2007-005-Consulting

INDEPENDENT PROPERTY MANAGER FOR SSS MAKATI BUILDING

Provide Independent Property Manager for the Management of SSS Makati Building

1. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS), through the Income from Investment intends to apply the sum of **Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P2,500,000.00)**, being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for **Property Management Services.**

    Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.
2. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential bidders to apply for eligibility and shortlisting *to provide property management services for SSS Makati Building.* Interested consultants must submit their LOIs on or before **November 29, 2007** at the Bids & Awards Committee (BAC) Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City and secure therefrom Part I of the Bidding Documents consisting of the Eligibility Documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on **December 14, 2007 not later than 2:00 p.m.** at *the Green Room, 12th floor, SSS Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.* Any Eligibility Documents submitted after this deadline shall be declared "Late" and shall not be accepted by the Bids and Awards Committee. Only those Bidders that are shortlisted will be entitled to submit bids.
3. The BAC shall draw up the shortlist of consultants from those who have submitted LOIs and have been determined as eligible both in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A). The shortlist of prospective bidders shall consist of a minimum of five (5) consultants. The criteria and rating system for shortlisting are:

    Quality Cost Based Evaluation System shall be used consisting of the following criteria:

    3.1 Technical Proposal - 60% weight
        a. Quality of personnel to be assigned to the project - 60 points
        b. Experience & Capability of the Property Manager - 10 points
        c. Plan of Approach and Methodology - 30 points
    3.2 Financial Proposal - 40% weight
4. LOIs must be delivered by hand, through mail, or facsimile to the address below on or before **November 29, 2007.**
5. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, and is restricted unless otherwise stated, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A 9184, only bids from shortlisted consultants will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in the Eligibility Documents. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, the contract will only be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

    The SSS shall evaluate bids using the **Quality-Cost Based Evaluation/Selection (QCBE/QCBS)** procedure using a 60%-40% technical and cost rating computation. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the Instructions to Bidders.
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the SSS at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
7. Shortlisted consultants shall be invited to participate in the bidding for this project through a Letter of Invitation to Bid issued by the BAC of the SSS. Part II of the Bidding Documents shall be issued only to shortlisted consultants from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of P2,500.00. The method of payment will be on a cash basis, payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Building, Ground Floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective consultant or his authorized representative
8. The contract shall be completed within twelve (12) months from the signing of the contract and issuance of Notice to Proceed (NTP).
9. The *SSS* reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids without offering any reason, waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the SSS. The SSS neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the SSS guarantee that an award will be made

Bids and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2991, 924-7380, 920-6401 local 5491
Email – **bac@sss.gov.ph**
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI – November 15, 2007)

PAL first-half profit ...

From page B2

panded by 13 percent to $354.1 million, boosted by higher net yield per revenue passenger kilometer (RPK), the aviation industry's yardstick for traffic volume.

Overall, the second-quarter loss, while larger than last year's shortfall, did little to diminish PAL's strong first-half performance.

For April to September 2007, the first six months of its fiscal year, PAL posted revenues of $727.4 million, also lifted by better net yields per RPK, against expenses of $704.7 million, which were again swelled by maintenance and fuel costs.

The resulting net income of $22.7 million was 107 percent over—or more than double—the $10.9 million profit booked in the same period in 2006.

The flag carrier recently emerged from eight years under receivership in robust condition, having posted operational profits for eight straight years and a net income for six of those years.

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
CHONTA INDUSTRIAL PACKAGING INC. Victoria Wave SEZ, Bgy. Malaria, Tala, Kalookan City	Nabil Farid Kabbani Swiss	Managing Director
LEIGHTON CONTRACTORS (ASIA) LIMITED 7/F LV Locsin Bldg., 6752 Ayala Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City	Johannes Christiaan Venter South African	Mechanical Superintendent
ABSOLUTE HAPPY DREAM CORPORATION 3/F DJAKA Bldg., No. 184 Tomas Morato Ave., Sacred Heart, Quezon City	Hyung Nam Huh Korean	Administrative Manager
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK 31/F Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City	Timothy Howard Davis British	Manager-Global Security & Investigation
CHIZZY AMUSEMENT CORP. Unit 101-102 Sherwood Place, 2262 Taft Ave., Malate, Manila	Ruth Ogwuzo Ajah Nigerian	Assistant Marketing Manager
SNC ENG PHILIPPINES, INC. 4/F Westar Bldg., 611 Shaw Blvd., Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Sung Choon Cho Korean	Operation Manager
TOYO CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. 4/F Princess Bldg., 104 Esteban St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Kentaro Takano Japanese	Chief, Civil Engineering Project
TOYO CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. 4/F Princess Bldg., 104 Esteban St., Legaspi Village, Makati City	Hiroshi Miyamoto Japanese	Chief, Electrical Engineering Project
SUNBEAM MARINE SPORTS CORPORATION 108 Tanguile St., Parang, Marikina City	Akihiro Miyauchi Japanese	Diving Instructor
SUNBEAM MARINE SPORTS CORPORATION 108 Tanguile St., Parang, Marikina City	Haruo Furukawa Japanese	Marketing Staff
EBARA CORPORATION Unit 1-C Cypress Gardens Cond., 112 Rufino St., Legaspi Vill., Makati City	Akihito Takahashi Japanese	General Manager
PLATINUM GROUP METALS CORPORATION 7/F (Penthouse), Corporate Business Centre Bldg., 151 Paseo de Roxas cor. Arnaiz St., Makati City	Jeffrey Weil Vogt American	Exec. Vice President
UNI-PRESIDENT (PHILIPPINES) CORPORATION G/F Topy's Place Bldg., Economia cor. Industria Sts., Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City	I-Shen Chen Chinese	President/CEO
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY/ PHILIPPINES (FH/PHIL.) INC. Unit 906 Dasma Corporate Center, 321 Dasmarinas St., Binondo, Manila	Katie Elizabeth Middlestead American	Seconded International Staff
HANGARAM WORLD PHILIPPINES CORP. JNCV Bldg., Pasig Blvd., Kapitolyo, Pasig City	Yang Sook Shin (w/o Jang) Korean	Manager
CINESE FOOT SPA 17-F M. Paterno St., Pasadena, San Juan City	Qing Wang Chinese	Aide Therapist
CINESE FOOT SPA 17-F M. Paterno St., Pasadena, San Juan City	Wanling Fu Chinese	Aide Therapist
CINESE FOOT SPA 17-F M. Paterno St., Pasadena, San Juan City	Jingyang Ding Chinese	Aide Therapist
CINESE FOOT SPA 17-F M. Paterno St., Pasadena, San Juan City	Xiaoping Zhu Chinese	Aide Therapist
CINESE FOOT SPA 17-F M. Paterno St., Pasadena, San Juan City	Huan Wang Chinese	Aide Therapist
MJ RICKSON TRADING CORP. L-2 Blk 40, Martiniko St., Longos, Malabon City	Zunying Zhou Chinese	Assistant Operation Officer
MJ RICKSON TRADING CORP. L2 B40, Martiniko St, Longos, Malabon, City	Ruiyuan Xu Chinese	Assistant Marketing Manager
LECRAM GARMENTS MANUFACTURING CORP. 288 Escolta St., Sta. Cruz, Manila	Qingyi Wang Chinese	Marketing Officer

If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC, Regional Director

(PDI–November 15, 2007)

Private sector steps up antismuggling drive

Focus on substandard steel bars

SPECIAL REPORT

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL BUSINESSMEN HAVE ROLLED up their sleeves to hound products of questionable sources as steel companies continue to lament the proliferation of substandard steel bars, some of which are being smuggled from China.

Jesus Arranza, president of the Federation of Philippine Industries, said in an interview that the problem harms government coffers, the viability of manufacturers' businesses and the public's safety.

"Smuggled substandard steel bars remain available in the market amid and because of the increased construction activity in the country that we have seen in the past few years," said Arranza, whom Malacañang had tapped to lead the private sector's fight against smuggling.

He said the FPI was looking over the shoulders of the Bureau of Customs (a unit of the Department of Finance) and the Bureau of Products Standards (a unit of the Department of Trade and Industry) to ensure better monitoring of merchandise being shipped into the country and being distributed to end-users.

Complaints

"FPI's efforts are based on complaints from its members, including steel companies under the Philippine Iron and Steel Institute," he said.

Data from the BPS showed that its enforcement campaign from January to September resulted in the apprehension of eight establishments, which have been charged formally for violation of the Consumer Act, the Standards Law and other relevant laws and government regulations.

In those nine months, the BPS said it seized 113,380 steel bars of varying diameters worth a total of P15.8 million.

The BPS has repeatedly warned the public about substandard steel bars, as this compromises the strength of structures built using the products, which in turn threatens the lives of people within and near the buildings.

BPS Director Jesus L. Motoomull explains that steel bars are included in the Philippine National Stardards' (PNS) list of building and construction materials, which means they must be certified as meeting PNS specifications before they could be sold to buyers.

The BPS has so far come out with a total of 5,525 Philippine National Standards (PNS)—specifications for various products that manufacturers should follow—of which 77 percent have so far been aligned to related international standards.

Also, the BPS operates a product certification scheme under which manufacturers and importers are required to submit their merchandise for certification, and to apply for Philippine Standard (PS) licenses and the Import Commodity Clearance (ICC) Certificates, respectively.

Proof that certain products have passed tests and been certified as fit for use is that these bear the PS logo for locally made products or the ICC mark for imports.

"The absence of such labels means the steel bars did not undergo the requisite safety tests of the BPS and makes the sale of these products illegal," Motoomull said.

"The manufacture and distribution of steel bars are regulated mainly due to safety considerations as these are used in building homes, offices, schools and other infrastructure," he added.

BPS data showed that its monitoring and enforcement campaign yielded at least 300,000 uncertified and substandard steel bars in 2006.

Last year's haul, valued at about P46.38 million, were confiscated from 14 establishments across the nation.

As for the bars seized in the first three quarters of 2007, these were confiscated from various hardware stores and construction supply vendors spread across provinces from as far north as Ilocos Norte to as far south as Davao City.

However, the presence of the PS and ICC logos don't ensure that these products are of standard quality because the BPS also seized steel bars found to be underweight or shorter than the standard length.

Smuggling activities

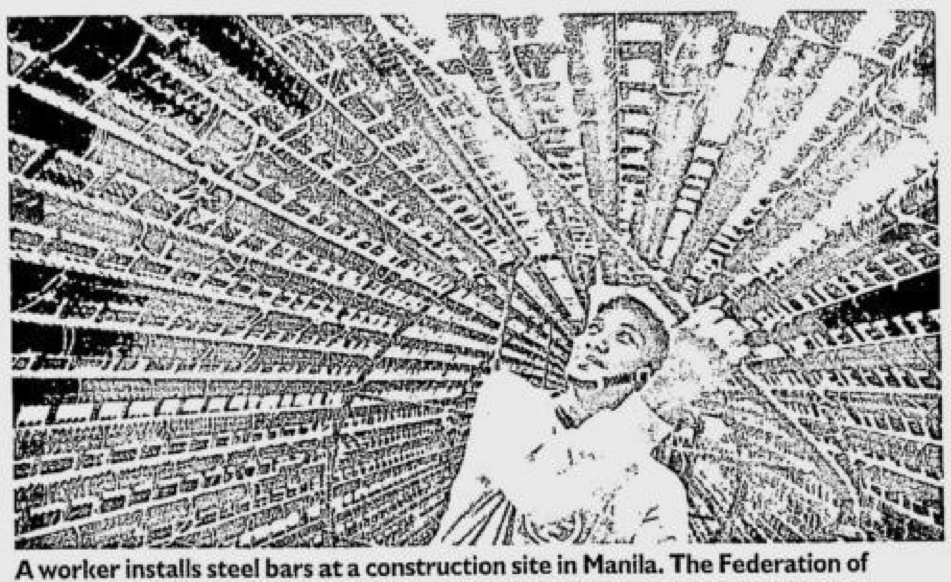
Arranza said that from FPI's coordination with market monitoring activities of the BPS, the federation has learned that some of the seized steel bars were from China.

"That proves steel bars are being smuggled [in] from China and this is actually rampant because we are convinced there are many more such shipments that have slipped past authorities and have successfully entered the market," he said.

"It is lamentable that we need to watch the watchers, but smuggling is a reality and we are forced to take action since the BoC and the BPS are not performing well enough," Arranza said.

"We are doing this because we stand to lose more than the time and the funds we are spending on work even if this is not supposed to be our job," he added.

But Arranza said the private sector's efforts have had somewhat "made a dent" in smuggling activities, such as in the case of a consignment of steel bars to a firm called Kingson International Trading Corp.



A worker installs steel bars at a construction site in Manila. The Federation of Philippine Industries recently redoubled its efforts to prevent substandard materials from being used in the construction industry. INQUIRER PHOTO

Documents showed to the Inquirer indicate the importer paid for the $694,254 shipment of "round bars" from Xinjiang in China in April 2006.

At the same time, Arranza said the importation smacked of fraud as the cargo of some 3,000 tons of steel bars was declared to be round bars used for making molds when it was actually deformed bars—the difference resulting to a lower customs duty of one percent instead of 7 percent.

"There was misdeclaration and undervaluation, clearly two factors that constitute smuggling and this was the basis of a warrant of seizure the BoC issued in May 12, 2006, six days after the cargo arrived," he said.

Arranza said FPI and its members including the Philippine Iron and Steel Institute had to watch this case closely because it turned out to be about the steel bars' lacking an import commodity clearance.

"In any case, the BoC took a long time to decide and it was only in last month that I was informed [that the agency] has ordered the forfeiture of the shipment," he said. "This means the steel bars are meant to be and should be cut up and sold as scrap."

"Still, we will contest this decision because it should have been a case of smuggling in the first place," Arranza said. "Why should the government even look into the quality of a cargo when its entry is questionable?"

Contraband is contraband, and whether or not it is of good quality is beside the point, he said.

As for BPS enforcement itself, Arranza said this was also susceptible to overtures aimed at letting guilty parties off the hook, just as with other law enforcement agencies.

"For instance, a person claiming to be a 'general' intervened in a recent raid of Steelhouse Merchandising in Parañaque City," he said. "That is but one incident, but we are convinced this is not unusual."

At the same time, industry sources complained of two incidents when seized steel bars were allowed out of the establishment in question in Pangasinan or even disappeared from another in Cavite.

Off-the-hook incidents

Trade Undersecretary Zenaida C. Maglaya, who is in charge of consumer welfare and protection, maintained that the DTI has rules on the process of market monitoring and enforcement, which DTI officials follow.

"Once we find uncertified or substandard products, these are confiscated and not allowed to be moved," Maglaya said. "Further investigation is then conducted to determine whether the owner is liable for a fine or formal charges."

Based on DTI's Department Administrative Order No. 7 series of 2006, seizure of materials means the padlocking of the business establishment, warehouse, building factory, store or any other structure used in committing the violation.

Another measure is to prevent the departure from the country of the respondent, regardless of citizenship. The establishment can also be ordered temporarily closed for up to 10 days.

Aside from the seizure and condemnation of products found below standard, violators of the Consumer Act are meted an administrative fine of at least P500 up to P300,000, and an additional fine of up to P1,000 for each day of continuing violation.

For violation of the trade and industry law, the estabishment's business permit would be withheld or cancelled and the business itself would be closed for up to a year.

Asked about the Pangasinan and Cavite incidents, she said the warehouse owners in Pangasinan were fined, but that the steel bars were indeed released.

"The condemned products were moved to Manila where they were cut into pieces to ensure that they would never be used for construction," Maglaya said.

"We do not stop at confiscating substandard goods," she said. "These dangerous products must be destroyed because we cannot risk them finding their way back into the market."

"(As for Cavite,) we verified that the seized steel bars disappeared and we are formally charging the owner for that," she added.

The official said monitoring of the market and enforcement of product standards were continuing efforts, and covered all concerned products regardless of their source.

"Smuggling has been a serious problem for legitimate companies and the effect is always harmful whether the contraband is from China or elsewhere," Arranza said. "The motive is always easy money and the source is irrelevant."

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INQUIRER

PNB's Q3 income up

By Doris C. Dumlao

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK, owned by tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, yesterday reported an 82-percent year-on-year growth in net profits to P1.11 billion for the first nine months, the bank said.

The performance came on the back of strong third quarter results despite the global financial turmoil triggered by the US credit crunch.

In a press statement yesterday, the bank announced that its net income for the July to September period alone reached P490.7 million, representing a growth of 168 percent over the 2006 third quarter net profit of P183.3 million.

With three more months to go, the rehabilitated bank's year-to-date income performance has approximated its highest annual income record of P1.14 billion seen over the last 10 years.

PNB's net interest income for the first nine months reached P4.16 billion, better by P243 million than the level posted a year ago.

Total resources as of end-September stood at P236.36 billion, down by around 3 percent compared to the December 2006 level, following the full payment of the remaining P6.1-billion loan to the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. last June.

"With its successful exit from the government's rehabilitation program and the strong income performance, PNB has demonstrated its ability to sustain its heightened competitiveness based on the three tenets of reducing nonperforming assets, strengthening core businesses and increasing profitability," the bank said.

The bank's level of nonperforming loans as of end-September dropped to P10.9 billion from a high of P45.2 billion in 2003. The bank also improved on its liquidity position registering a higher 48.2-percent ratio of liquid assets to total assets at the end of September 2007 versus only 42.3 percent at the close of 2006.

Meanwhile, total deposits fell by 4 percent to P174.3 billion at end-September against the end-2006 level due to the reduced peso equivalent of the bank's dollar deposits as a result of the strong appreciation of the local currency against the US dollar. In the same period, the bank also reported the shift of some high cost deposits to the high-yielding special deposits accounts (SDA) offered by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

By the end of the third quarter, low-cost current account and savings account (Casa) deposits increased by more than P3 billion, comprising 48 percent of total deposits compared to 44 percent as of end-2006.

PNB earlier completed an equity offering where it raised about P5 billion in tier 1 or core capital. Together with the sale of 89 million primary shares, 71.8 million secondary shares owned by the national government through the PDIC and the national government were sold to the public, thus completing the bank's privatization.

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HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
1344 Angono St., Makati City
or call Ms. Dorie Ramilo
Tel. Nos.: **897-6819** loc. **111** or **899-6439**
or Mrs. Emily Gepilano at tel. nos.: **850-1803** or **807-2454**

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Interested applicants should e-mail their CV (Microsoft Word) to the Head of the Human Resource Services Department (quoting the reference number 192/HRS/07) at:

hr@frontel.net

Deadline of submission is on 23 November 2007, 12:00 PM (Manila Time).

Frontel Corporation
Unit 708 Tower1, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines
Telephone Number: +632 473 4953

For Inquiries, look for Mr. Melan Valentin

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PHILHEALTH ACCREDITED
San Pedro, Cabusao, Camarines Sur
Telefax : 054-451-2244

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Construction of Bicol Sanitarium Infirmary

The DOH-Bicol Sanitarium (BS), intends to apply the sum of ***Php 9,958,508.75*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract to payments under the contract for the ***Construction of Bicol Sanitarium Infirmary***. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Bicol Sanitarium now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the *Construction of Bicol Sanitarium Infirmary*. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested bidders must submit their LOIs on ***November 20-26, 2007*** at BAC Secretariat, Bicol Sanitarium, Cabusao, Camarines Sur and secure the eligibility documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on or before the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: ***November 27, 2007, 10:00 am*** at SRC Hall, Bicol Sanitarium. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of RA 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only Bids from Eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with IRR-A of RA 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during Post-Qualification Period.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the Eligibility Check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php 1,500.00***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative on ***November 28- December 17, 2007***. Pre-bidding Conference will be on ***December 6, 2007***, **9:00 am**, SRC Hall Bicol Sanitarium, Cam Sur.

1. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash (1%), Bank Guarantee (1.5%), GSIS Surety Bond (2.5%) or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted Bid.Opening shall be on ***December 18, 2007, 9:00 am*** at Bicol Sanitarium's SRC Hall, Cabusao, Camarines Sur. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's Representative who choose to attend at the address stated above

   Completion of the Works is required by 150 CD

2. The Bicol Sanitarium reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **VICENTE Y. UY**
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 15, 2007)

E-KONEK PILIPINAS

Unit D, 6th Floor, Washington Tower
Asiaworld City, E. Aguinaldo Blvd.
Tambo, Parañaque City 1703
Telefax: 632-8798310

INVITATION TO EXPRESS INTEREST AND PRE-QUALIFY

A. **E-Konek Pilipinas, Inc.**, an IT company focusing on Value-Added Solutions for e-governance, is embarking on several major projects by the start of 2008. As a systems integrator, E-Konek is building its database of third–party IT solution providers for possible partnerships, outsourcing or body shop contracting.

B. If you are an IT company with expertise in the following areas, we invite you to introduce your company, and your special competence by submitting a company portfolio. Particulars of the company portfolio are published in our website **www.ekonek.com**.

- **Software Design** – Java Framework, Services, Workflow.
- **Systems Administration and Database Administration** – Unix/ Linux, Oracle 10G primarily.
- **Custom Software Development** –Use of Open-source software products, J2EE, Configuration Management / version control systems, WEB Application Development, test automation, mobile and hand-held solutions
- **Facilities Management** – Network design, network monitoring, data center operations and management.

C. This invitation is open from **06 November 2007 to 15 December 2007.**

Guillermo L. Parayno, Jr.
President

(PDI - November 8 & 15, 2007)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Maynila Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral Ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/ Brief Description	One (1) job Furnishing of materials, labor, tools, equipment and supervision for the complete installation of two (2) units new Water-Cooled Chiller at the Security Plant Complex located at East Avenue, Quezon City, per BSP Scope of Work, Equipment Schedule, Drawings and Technical Specifications
Approved Budget for the Contract	P34,000,000.00
Completion Period	Within two hundred twenty-four (224) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed which must be secured within five (5) calendar days after receipt of a copy of the approved contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar requirement awarded and completed from Y2002 to present amounting to at least 50% of the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC). The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting 14 November 2007 not later than 2:00 P.M.
2. Site Inspection	4 December 2007, 9:00 A.M.
3. Pre-bid Conference	17 December 2007, 9:30 A.M., MR2A
4. Opening of Bids	8 January 2008, 2:00 P.M., MR2A
5. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.
6. Post-qualification	
7. Notice of Award	

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P17,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.**
Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 15, 2007)

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE-INFRASTRUCTURE
Cebu Capitol Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Asphalting of Teotimo A. Abellana Sr. Memorial NHS Access Road and Dakit - Lamak Road
Location	Barili, Cebu
Brief Description	Road Asphalting
Approved Budget For the Contract	P 15,454,053.91
Contract Duration	50 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/ fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statements and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of BAC-INFRA activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	Nov. 15-21, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Nov. 15-21, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	Nov. 21, 2007
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	Nov. 23, 2007
5. Issuance of Bidding Documents	Nov. 26, ,2007
6. Pre-bid Conference	Nov. 28, 2007
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	Dec. 10, 2007

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Legislative Building, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent and upon payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P50.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 255-6123.

The BAC-INFRA will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of non-refundable amount of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to the Cash Division, Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids and, reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality in the bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd) **ADOLFO V. QUIROGA**
Chairman

(PDI - Nov. 15, 2007)

CCP upholds rights of Neo-Angono artists

ALL SOCIETIES THAT aspire for freedom and development should regard their artists with deep respect. The alteration of an artwork without its artist's explicit consent is a violation of the artist's right to free expression and a desecration of the artwork.

Even in commissioned projects involving various parties working towards an agreed vision, the limits to intervention must be negotiated without sacrificing artistic integrity.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP) issues this position paper in the light of the unfortunate controversy surrounding the mural commissioned by the National Press Club from the Neo-Angono Artists collective; so that the public may be guided accordingly, and the integrity of artworks and artistic practice be upheld.

The CCP strongly condemns the utter disregard for the artists' intellectual rights over their work, which was explicit in the actions taken and comments given by the NPC management. Recognizing the valuable partnership between Filipino journalists and artists, and in our common commitment to uphold freedom of expression in our country, we wish to view this event as the result of a misguided few rather than the sentiment of the entire NPC.

The CCP commends the Neo-Angono Artists Collective for standing up for their rights, and enjoin the rest of the artistic community to do the same.

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So dearly loved...

So fondly remembered...

So truly missed.

*In loving memory of our dearest "**Star**"*

Maria Roberta Estrella Pareja Montaño

(29 May 1979 – 16 November 2003)

We, her loving parents and family request the readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Maj. Gen. Ramon & Fe Montaño
Rommel, Maripaz & Rian
Roxanne, Anton, Ysabel and **Christina**

Memorial Masses are to be held in the following churches on 16 November 2007:

St. Joseph Parish Church, San Jose, Negros Oriental
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City
Colegio San Agustin Church, Dasmariñas Village, Makati City
St. Benedectine Church, Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City

"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven,"
Ecclesiastes 3:1

VICTORIANO N. BALAOING

of Malimpin Dasol Pangasinan & San Jose California

Who peacefully joined his Creator on November 8, 2007 at the age of 75.

His bereaved wife **Araceli**; children **Randy** & **Angie**; **Stephanie**; **Bong** & **Anna**; **Mai** & **Noel** and **Vic**; grandchildren **Angelo**, **Anthony** & **Abby**, his brothers & sisters, relatives & friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at the Oak Hill Funeral Homes, San Jose California.

Interment will be on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at the Oak Hill Memorial Park, San Jose California.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

Message of Thanks

No amount of words or tears can express the pain and the sorrow we feel at her passing away. Through your prayers, condolences, and company, you gave us strength and relief to walk through these difficult moments.

We, the family of the late

Carolina "Baby" Urbino Calaguas, DMD

(July 13, 1931 – November 4, 2007)

wish to convey our deepest gratitude to all of you – our relatives, friends, and colleagues who spent precious time with us, sent flowers, mass cards, gave donations, or in some other way expressed your love, concern, and support with the loss of our dearest mother and loving wife.

"Lord, you will show me the path of life and fill me with joy in your presence."
Ps. 16:11

COL. PEDRO ONG GALVEZ

AFP (Ret.)
PMA Class '42

*Peacefully joined our Lord and his wife **Fiding** (†) on November 12, 2007 at the age of 89.*

His children **Alberto** (†), **Pedro Larry** (†), **Ming**, **Loida**, **Evelyn**, **Fides** and **Gina**, brother **Abraham** (†), sister **Aurora**, children-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel-D, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Sunday, November 18, 2007 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass. Inurnment of ashes will follow at Mt. Carmel Church Crypt, New Manila, Quezon City.

JUDGE NICASIO BAGUILAT, RET.

of LAGAWE, IFUGAO

He passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 8, 2007 at the age of 82.

His remains lie in state at the family's residence on No. 67 Rizal Ave. Lagawe, Ifugao.

Interment will be on November 16, 2007 at Kiangan.

Faustino C. Samodio

peacefully joined our Lord on the 13th of November, 2007, at the age of 95.

His remains lie in state at the Patalinhug Funeral Home, Cabaguio Ave., Davao City.

Interment will be on Friday, November 16, 2007, 1 p.m. at the Davao Memorial Chapel, KM 3, Matina, Davao City.

Papang is survived by **Feliza**, **Eva**, **Faustino Jr.**, **Linda**, **Manuel**, **Zealanda**, **Francis**, **Katherine**, **Yolanda**, **Sydney**, his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The family would like to request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

CLASSIFIEDS

Case No. CV 0707098
Dept. No. II

IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WHITE PINE

IN THE MATTER OF THE
PARENTAL RIGHTS AS TO

NOTICE

CHARLOTTE MACARANAS
Minor child.

TO: TEOTIMO DIZON, father of the above-named minor; and to all persons claiming to be the father of this minor;

You are hereby notified that there has been filed in the above-entitled court a petition praying for the termination of parental rights over the above-named minor person, and that the petition has been set for hearing before this Court, at the courtroom thereof, in the County of White Pine, State of Nevada, on the 26th day of November, 2007, at 11:00 a.m., at which time and place you are required to be present if you desire to oppose the petition.

DATED this 13 day of September, 2007.

DONNA M. BATH
CLERK OF COURT

By: Pat Campbell
Deputy Clerk

(PDI – Octobei 14, 21, Nov. 8 & 15, 2007)

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dti
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the **"Supply and Delivery of Desktop PCs and DNS Server for the Department of Trade and Industry,"** with an approved budget of Thirteen million seven hundred thousand pesos (Php 13,700,000.00).

Bid documents will be available for issuance starting 15 November 2007 until 5:00 p.m. of 23 November 2007 during office hours at the DTI-BAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City c/o Mr. Maynard R. Peralta, with telephone number 751-5984, after paying a non-refundable fee of Thirteen thousand seven hundred pesos (Php13,700.00). Check payments should be made payable to **"DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY - BIDDER'S BOND."** A pre-bid conference shall be held on 23 November 2007, 9:30 a.m. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City.

Deadline for the submission of the eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals, and the opening of bids will be on 7 December 2007, 9:30 a.m. at the Center Conference Room, 6th Floor, Trade & Industry Building, 361 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City. The DTI Bids and Awards Committee will not entertain late bidders.

The DTI reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not award the contract in any of the situations enumerated in Section 41 of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and its implementing rules and regulations, without the DTI assuming any responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) **MARIA LOURDES T. BAUA**
Assistant Secretary
Chairperson, DTI Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Nov. 15, 2007)

---

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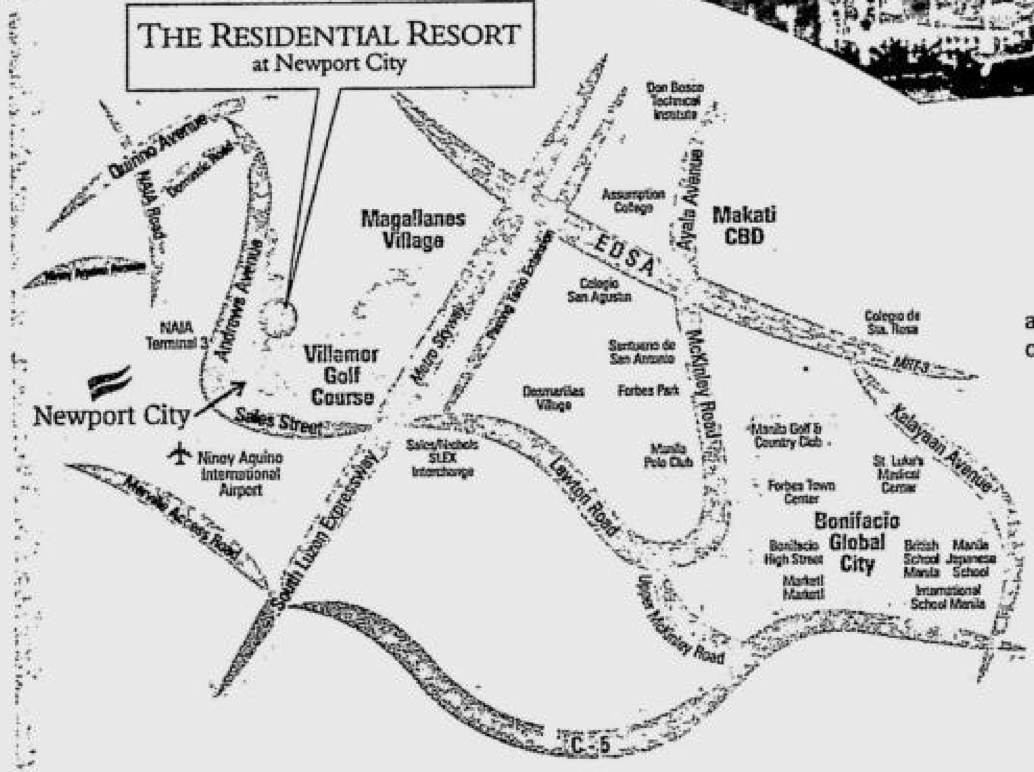
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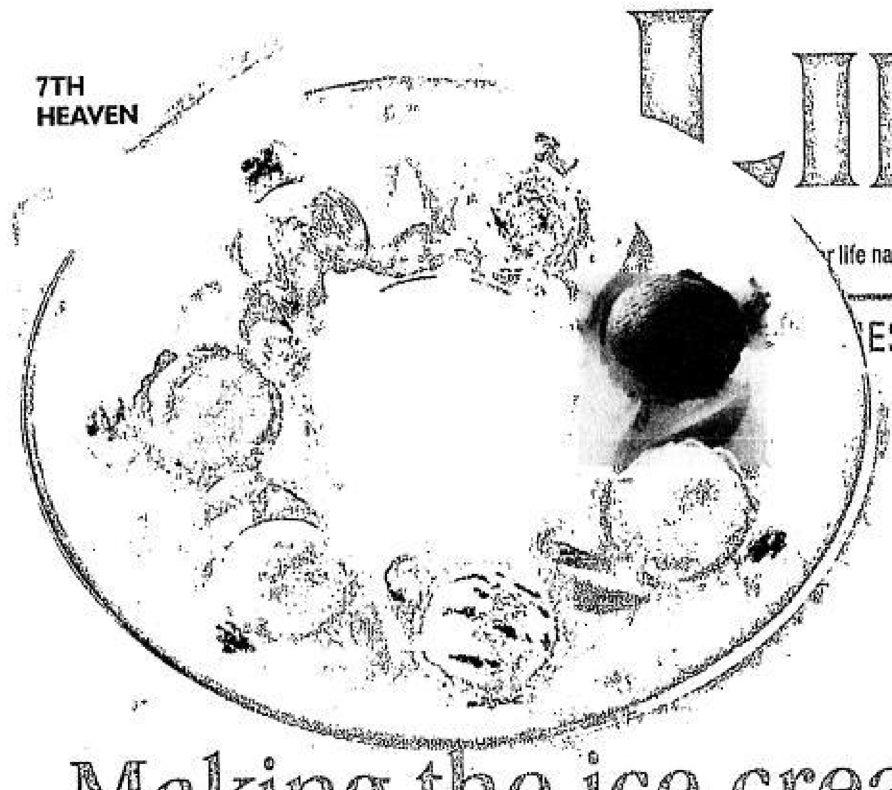
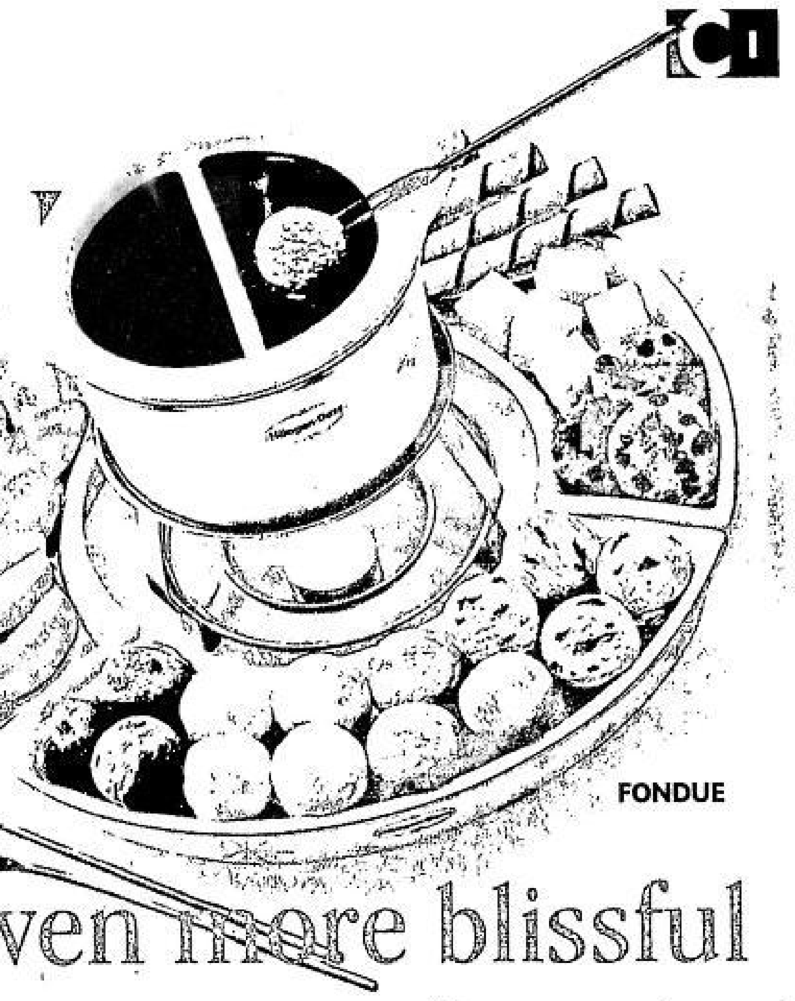

7TH HEAVEN

Häagen Dazs now serves
its terribly creamy,
decadently rich treat
in its first company shop
at the Mall of Asia


FONDUE

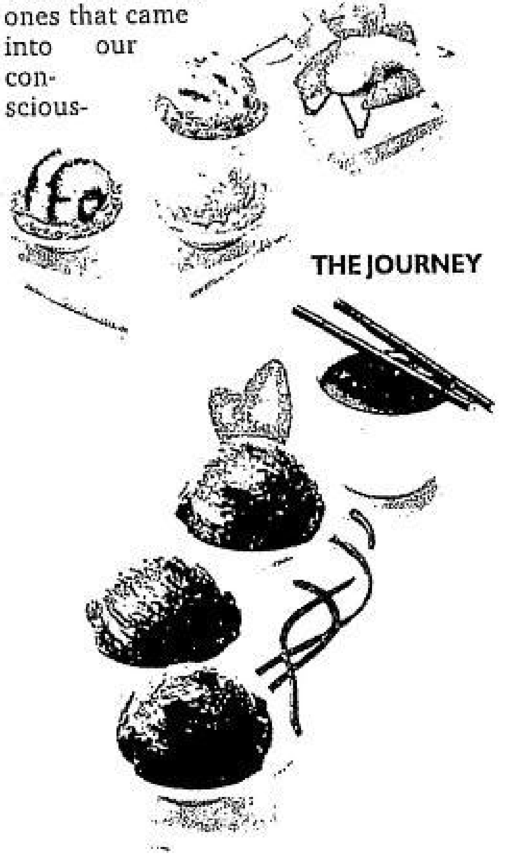
Making the ice cream experience even more blissful

KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

ICE CREAM, TO ME, IS broken down into three categories: The first brings back memories of *ube* and *queso* in little cones, the clanging of bells and Mamang Sorbetero pushing his *carito*.

The second is what we consume on a daily basis. We love them but, let's put it this way, it's an indulgence we most often take for granted.

The third category consists of those I classify as fancy, the ones that came into our consciousness way later, when our pockets became a bit more stuffed and our palates, well, better trained to actually tell the difference.


THE JOURNEY

Fancy would mean terribly creamy, decadently rich, with the actual taste of the ingredients and a real explosion of flavors in every bite.

This is how best to describe Häagen Dazs. Few labels are as true to form as this one.

Just last week Häagen Dazs opened its first company shop at the Mall of Asia. Its modern interiors and lighting are all done to enhance the whole ice cream experience.

Do you know that every shop they have is "light engineered" to accentuate and enhance the ice creams on display? Indeed, no detail is overlooked for one of the world's premium ice cream brands.

We know much about the ice cream but so little about its creator, Reuben Matthus, who once worked for his mother's ice cream business that supplied ice cream pops and fruit juices.

Obsessed with quality and perfection, he went on a crusade to source only the finest ingredients. That meant acquiring his vanilla beans from Madagascar, his chocolates from Belgium, his green tea from Kyoto. The list goes on and on. Thus, the unadulterated goodness in every bite and every flavor of HD ice cream.

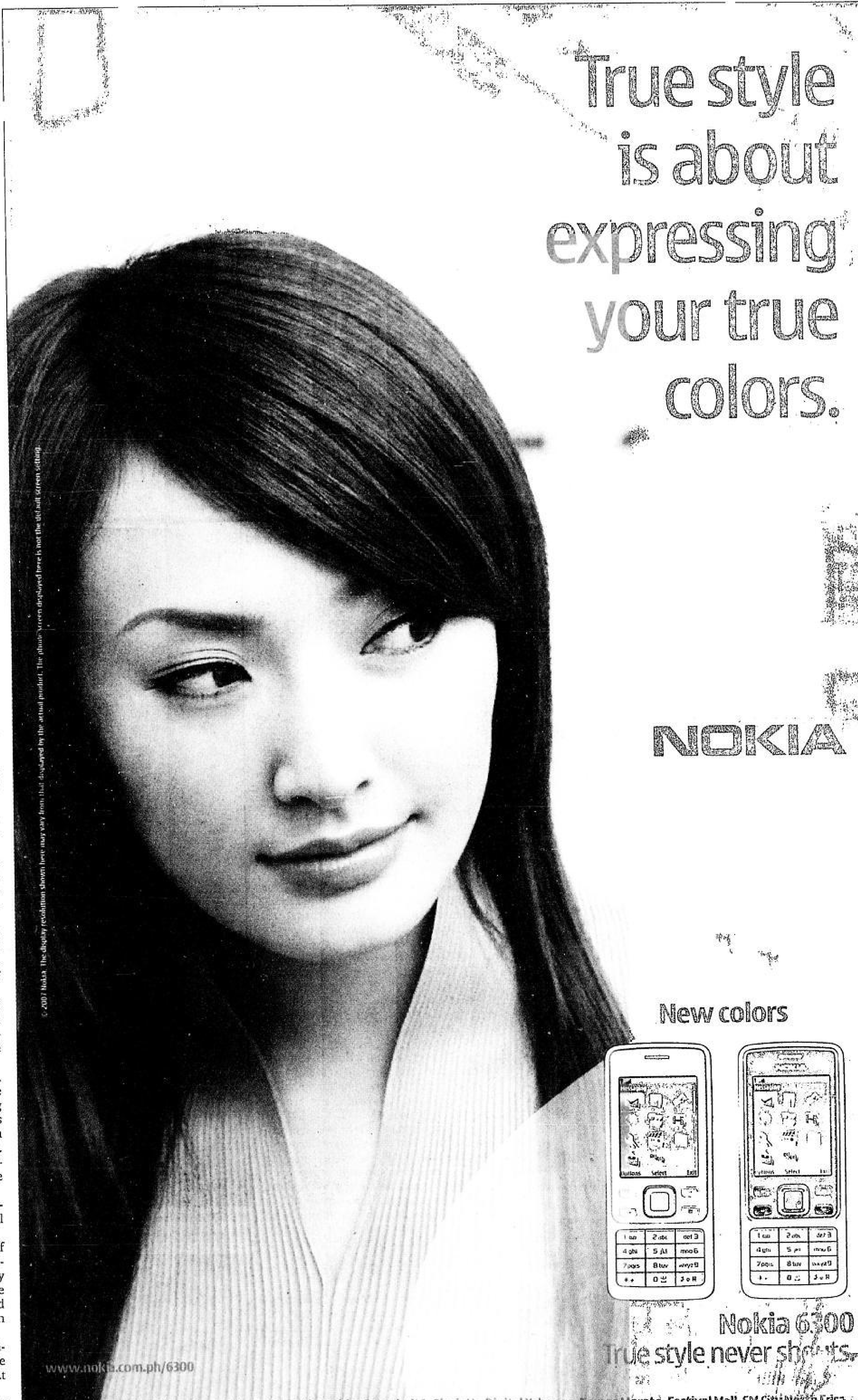
And all that goodness is made even better with what I fondly call their surreal (pronounced "*suryal*"!) creations!

Imagine a plate filled with 14 scoops of ice cream, a mélange of fresh fruit, delicious butter cake (an original Betty Crocker recipe that is so good they have to retail it), chocolate chip cookies and wafers served with a pot of warm Belgian chocolate sauce.

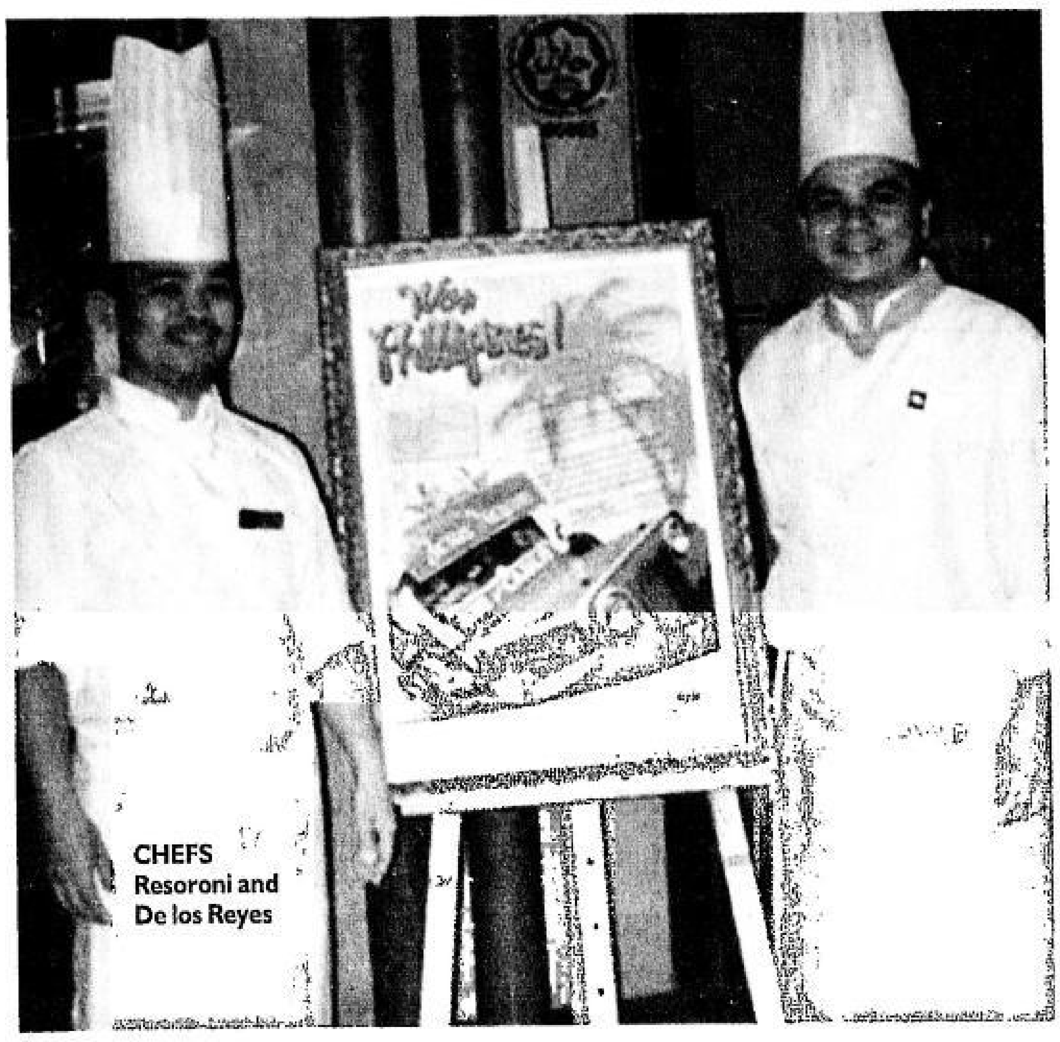
This concoction, known as the HD fondue, just put the art of dessert fondue preparation another notch higher. At P700 plus, it is a treat for an army!

Then there is 7th Heaven, seven scoops of ice cream over a bed of fruit, which is great value for money. A scoop costs P150 while seven scoops sell for a little over P500.

MAKING/ C3

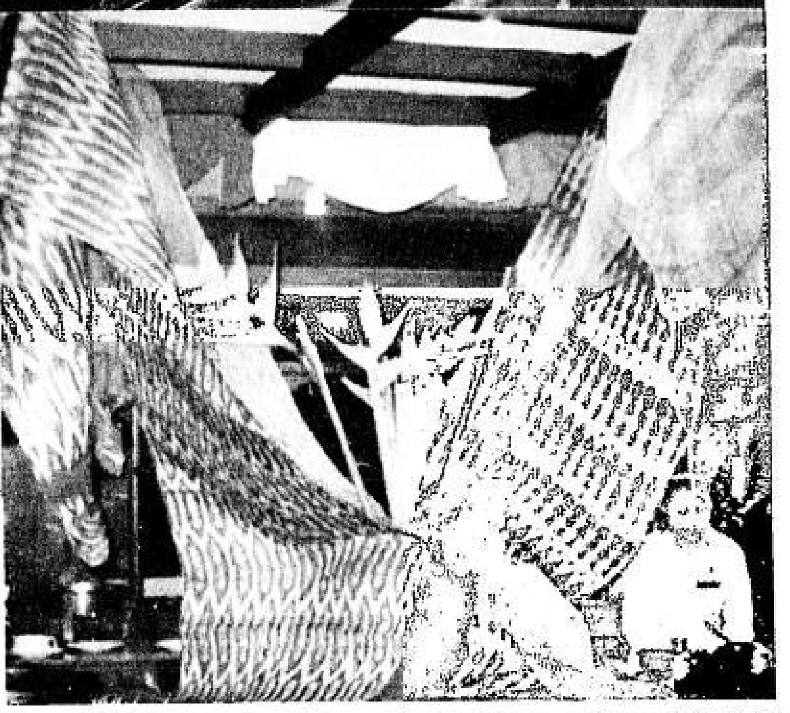


Available at the following Nokia Stores nationwide: Greenbelt 1, Glorietta Digital Xchange, Tomas Morato, Festival Mall, SM City North Edsa, Gaisano Davao, Gateway Mall, Robinsons Manila, Robinsons Galleria, SM Davao, Tacloban City, Lim Ket Kai Center CDO, Alabang Town Center, SM Mall of Asia, Podium, Greenhills, SM City Cebu, SM Iloilo, SM Bacolod, Rockwell, Bonifacio High Street, Trinoma, Dagupan, SM Batangas


CHEFS Resoroni and De los Reyes

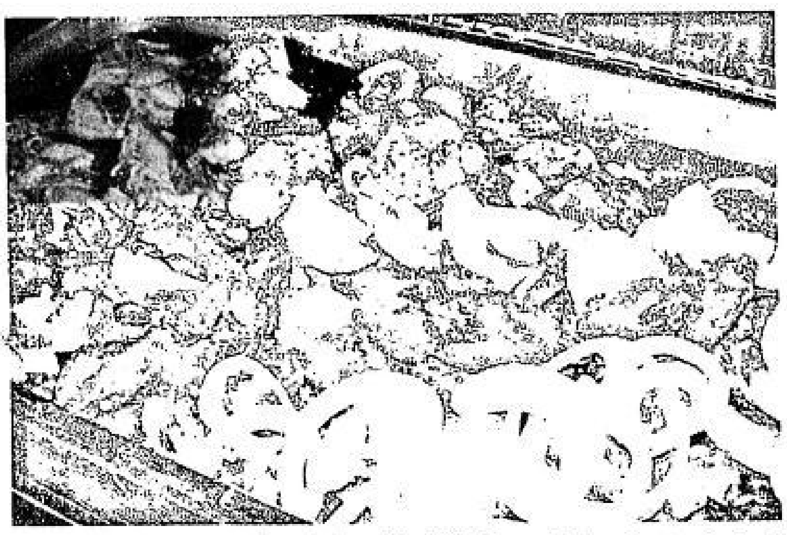
ABOVE: The *pinakbet* was without pork. Instead of *bagoong alamang*, the Malaysian shrimp paste *belacan* was used.
Right: Red, blue and white hang from the ceiling and *tinalak* and *sinamay* decorate the buffet table for the Philippine food festival.

Waving the Philippine culinary flag in Sarawak



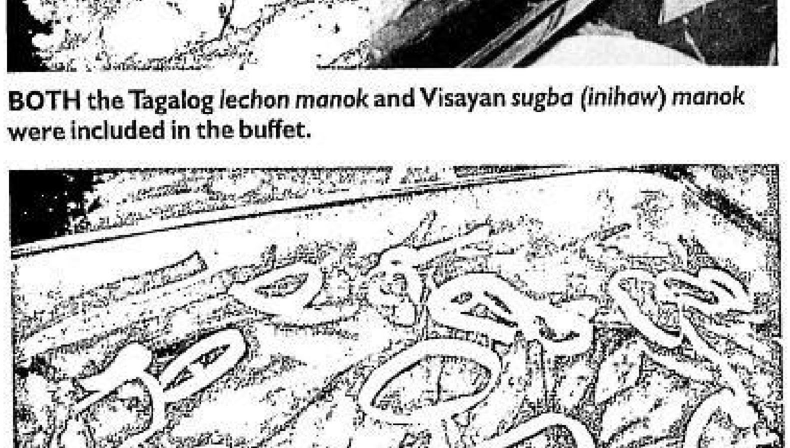
Though some ingredients were missing, apparently lost in translation, the Filipino food festival in Kuching was well-received

Text and photos by Linda B. Bolido


THOUGH he topped the *adobo* with chili pieces, De los Santos balked at the idea of making the dish spicy hot saying it will not be authentic.

ENSALADANG langka

BOTH the Tagalog *lechon manok* and Visayan *sugba (inihaw) manok* were included in the buffet.


SLICES of red chili add color to steamed okra, *kachang lendir* in Bahasa.

RED, BLUE AND WHITE—the colors of the Philippine flag—hung over lunch and dinner guests of Crowne Plaza Riverside's Cafe Majestic for one week recently.

An arrangement of *tinalak* and orange *sinamay* strips comprised the centerpiece of the main buffet table.

The café, one of the food outlets of the Kuching hotel, donned the Filipino look in keeping with its Philippine food festival.

For the event that coincided with the BIMP-EAGA (Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines-East Asean Growth Area) 3rd Travel Expo, the hotel in the capital city of Sarawak, Malaysia relied on the skills of two chefs from Marco Polo Davao Hotel.

With the Philippines and Malaysia having so much in common, it would seem that the assignment would not be much of a challenge for chefs Dionisio de los Reyes and Rey Reseroni.

But De los Reyes said they found out when they got to Kuching that, despite assurances that everything on their lists were available, many of the ingredients they needed could not be provided or were not quite what they wanted.

Part of the confusion may have stemmed from the fact that while Malaysian terms may be similar to Filipino words, in reality they could mean very different things.

Bawang, for instance, is a term for onion, as well as garlic itself. Garlic, according to Justiniani Y. Bersales Jr., an Ilonggo who has married a Malaysian and settled in Kuching, is *bawang puteh* while onion is *bawang merah*.

Tiny tuna

The Mindanao-based chefs were also disappointed to find that the tuna they would use for their *kinilaw* was not the huge, almost the size of a small person, fish they had in Davao.

It was more like a very large *tulingan*.

They also could not find their favorite *suka* and the *toyo* they preferred to use for their *adobo*.

As for the *bagoong* for the *kare-kare*, they had to settle for the Malaysian *belacan* (pronounced "*belachan*"), which is sold in blocks, that—to them, at least—did not taste like what they usually used for the dish.

They also missed the *tanglad* for their *lechon manok* although it was not quite missing as it was sold in the Sunday market, but probably not available from the hotel's regular suppliers.

The *ampalaya* they used for the salad and *pinakbet* had smoother skin, looking more like *sayote*. It also did not taste as bitter as the Pinoy variety.

But, all in all, it was an exciting and exhilarating culinary challenge for the two chefs who prepared a spread that included dishes from north to south of the Philippines—Kapampangan, Ilokano, Bisaya and, of course, Mindanao.

Every day was a time for experimentation, an exercise in trial and error as they worked with ingredients they were not quite accustomed to.

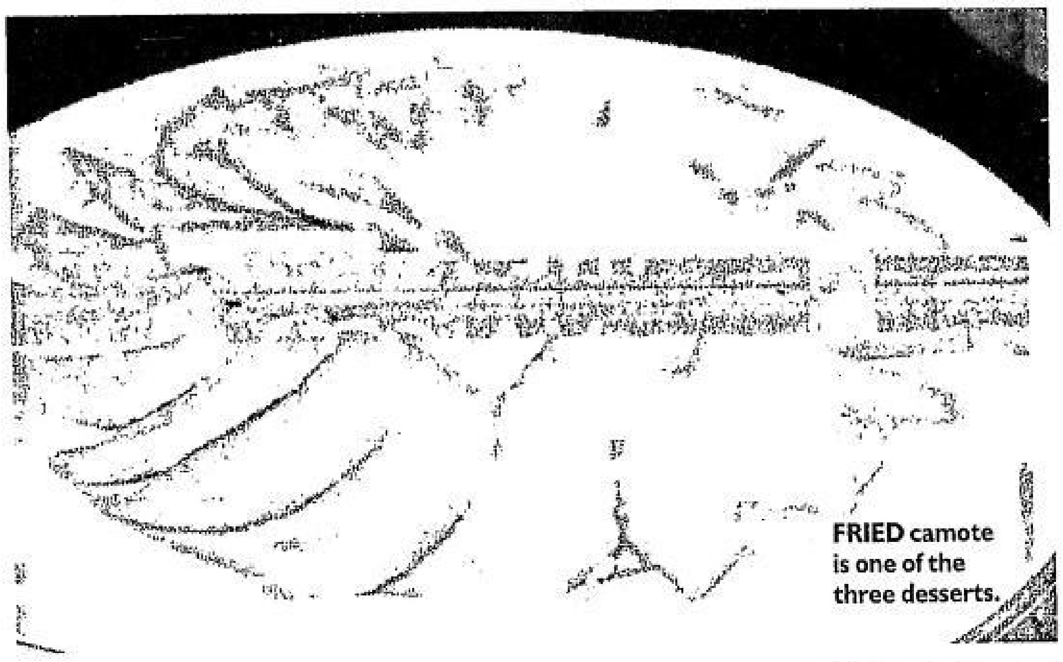
De los Reyes said he only balked at the request to use more chili for the dishes, saying it would not be quite Filipino as the recipes were not meant to be hot.

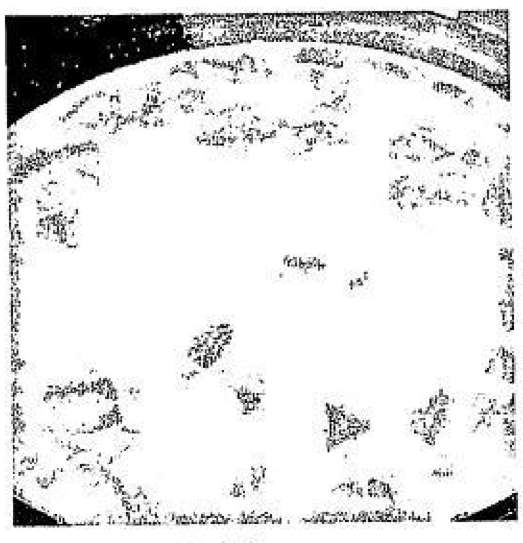
But he had no objection to diners adding whatever spices they wanted.

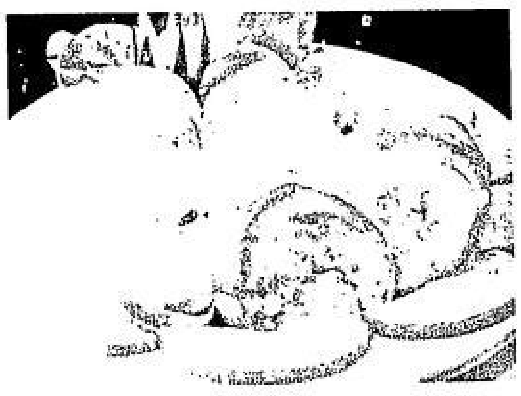
Lunch featured seven main courses, two soups, and three each of cold dishes, salads and desserts. For dinner, the chefs prepared ten main dishes.

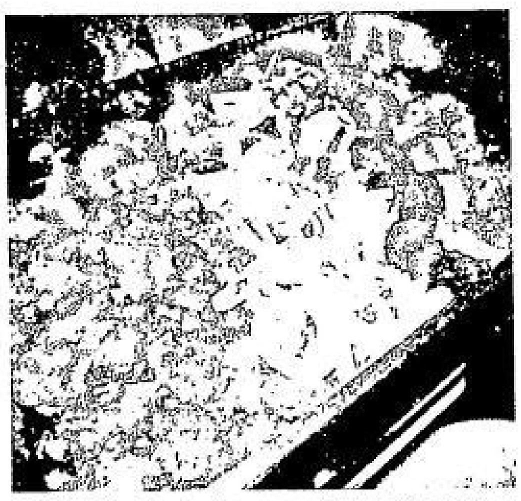
Other featured dishes during the weeklong food festival that were *ensaladang langka, itlog na maalat* with onions and tomatoes, *embutido, kalderetang baka, bihon guisado, ensaladang okra* (*kachang lendir* in Bahasa), *pritong isda, nilagang baka* and *sotanghon* soup.

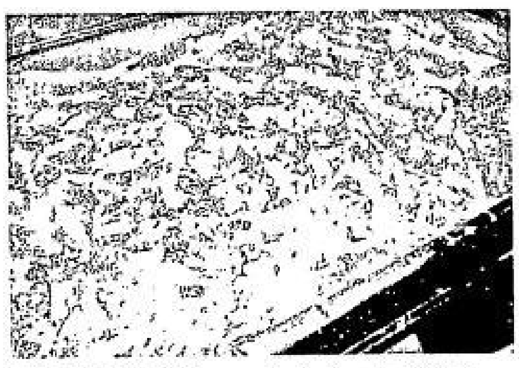
Dessert included fried *kamote* and *buko-pandan* salad.


FRIED camote is one of the three desserts.


BUKO-PANDAN **salad**


EMBUTIDO **does not quite look like its usual self.**


MISSED in the *lechon manok* were the aroma and flavor of *tanglad*.


THE TASTE of *bihon guisado* is not all that strange to people in Sarawak who always enjoy a hefty serving of noodles even for breakfast.

Making the ice cream experience even more blissful

From page C1

Other creations that are worth the bulge are Chocolate and Fruit Journeys, samplers of their chocolate and fruit-flavored bestsellers. And did I mention they now serve a whole range of coffee and coffee-based beverages?

In a nutshell, my visit to their shop at the Mall of Asia was a sensory experience at its finest. Few things are as mouth-watering as they are picture-perfect. The price tag? Well, considering that you are indulging in pure luxury, not bad at all!

These glorious delights are available only at their MOA store, for now. Perhaps that is the reason they priced their menu rather low.

They took our transportation expense into consideration.

Call HD SM Mall of Asia at 5562143 or 5561111.

After indulging in treats that are *pang* 15th, 30th and 13th-month pay, let's move on to ice cream goodness for in-between days.

Magnolia's Ube and Sesame Mochi

Who does not love *mochi*—sweet glutinous rice balls stuffed with *ube* and sesame ice cream? I will never forget how I used to look forward to visiting my cousin-in-law Deoji and his wife, my cousin Suzette, when they were still Hong Kong-based.

They turned me on to green tea and red-bean *mochi*. Magnolia's *mochis* are not green tea or red bean but the little balls are just as good, they are addictive! At P12 each I am thankfully back to reality. Something so good that we can all afford! Available at leading supermarkets.

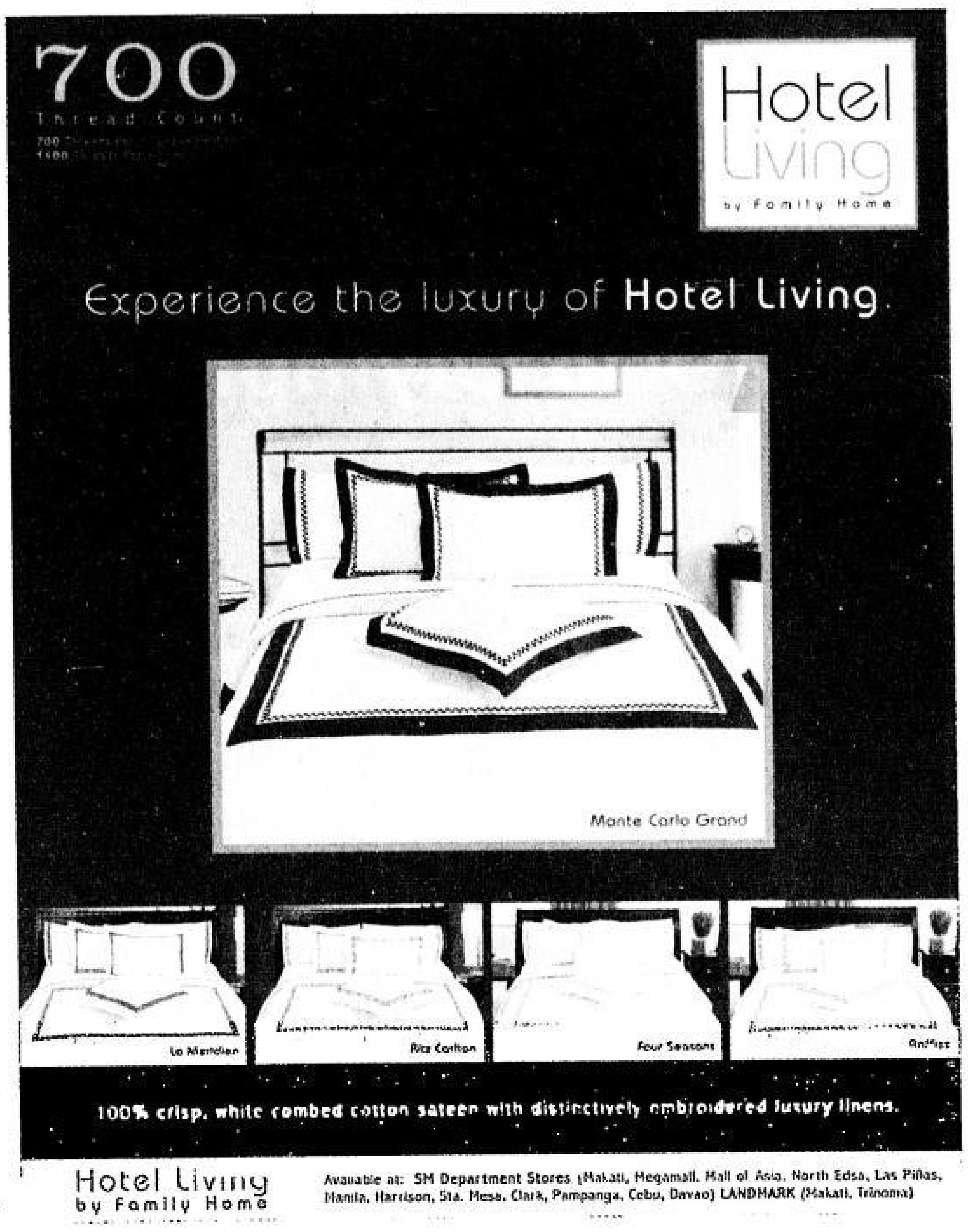
Liquid smoke

I am writing to [get your] help [in finding] liquid smoke here in the Philippines. I have tried some specialty stores and delis but have yet to find it.

REDGIE F. CINCO

Have you tried Unimart? Saw their shelves stacked with it. Or you can try Lourdes Rivera who sells all sorts of meat-processing supplies. Call 0920-8577215, 7420826 or 7427866. It is not sold as liquid smoke but called smoked flavor.

E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph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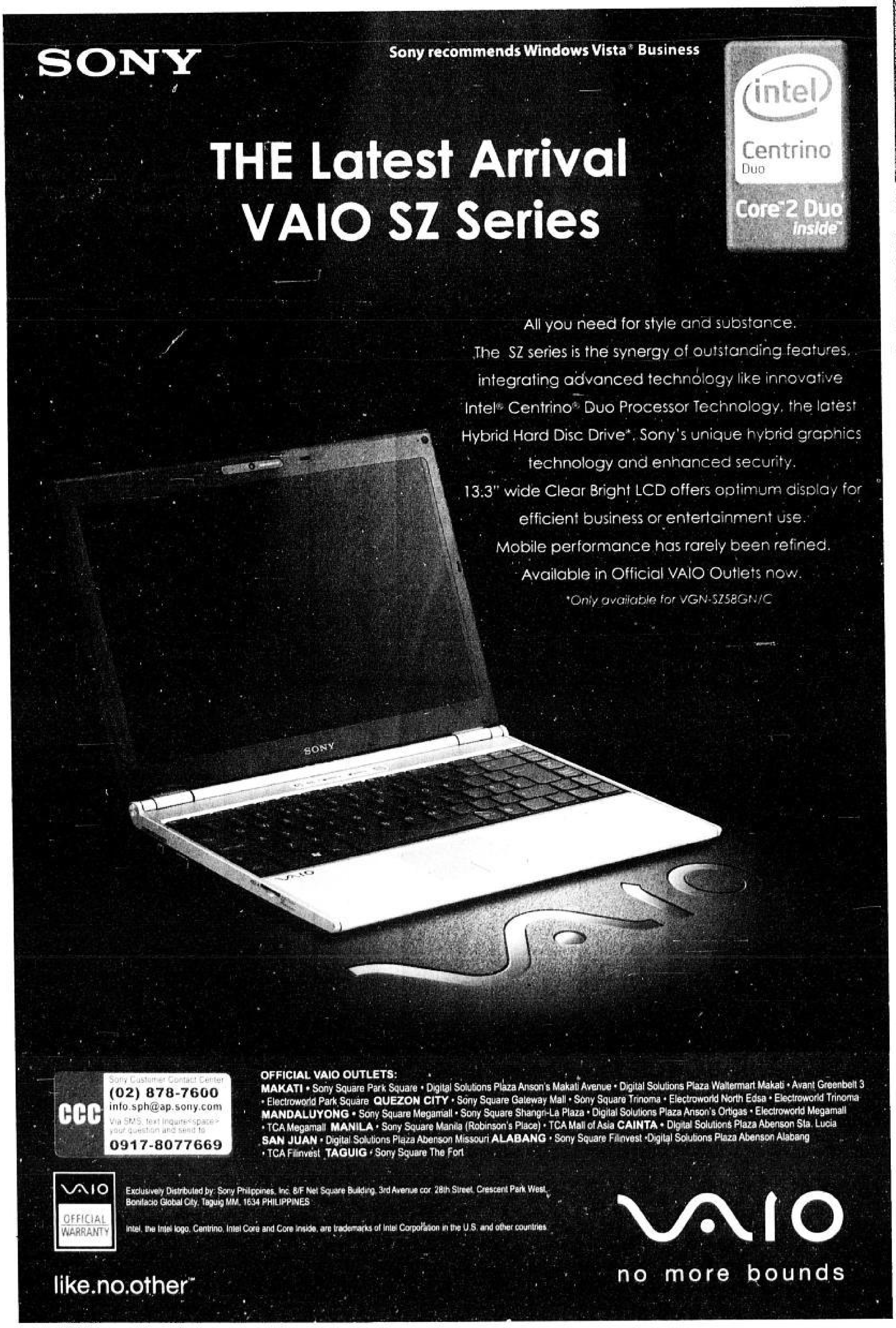
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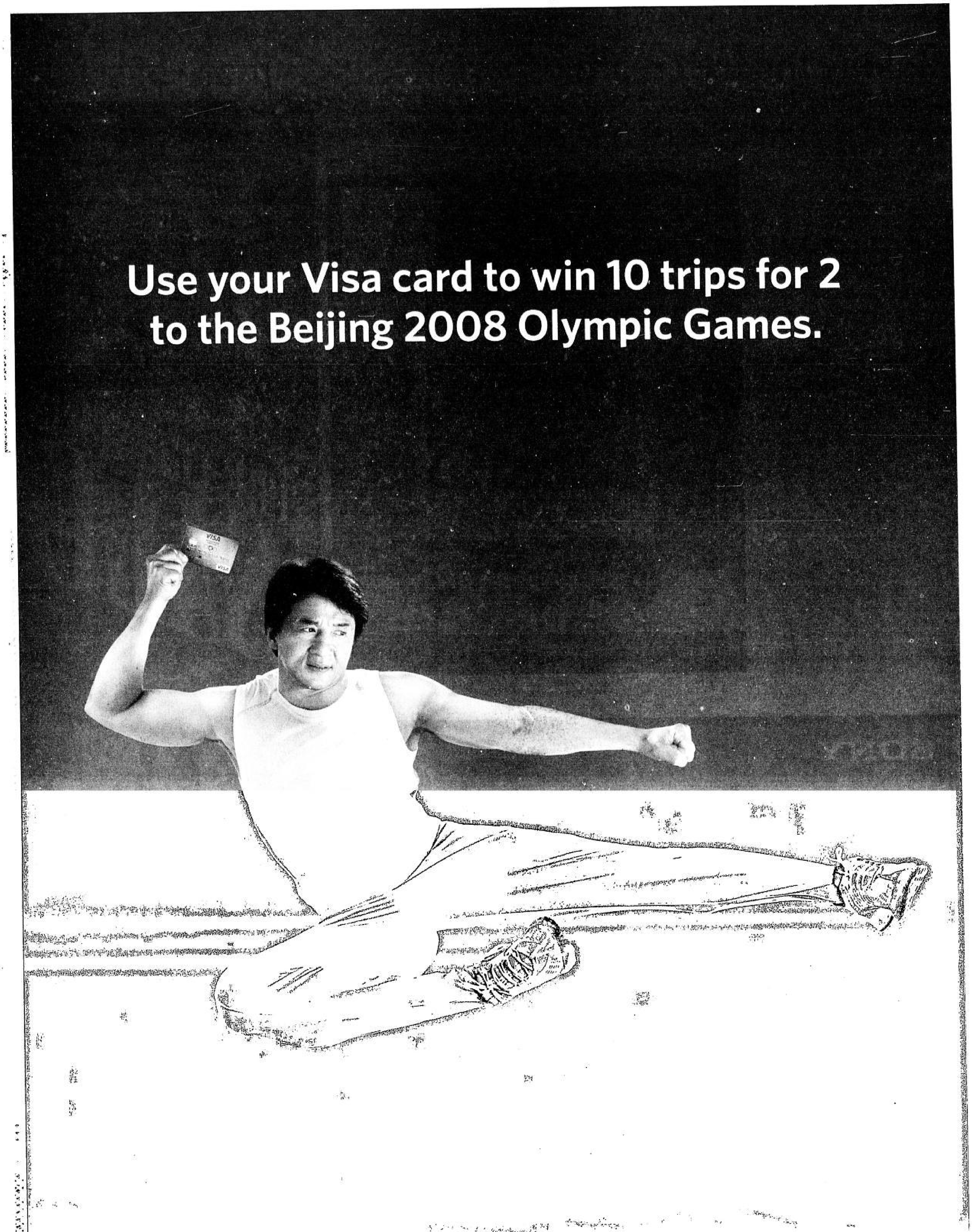

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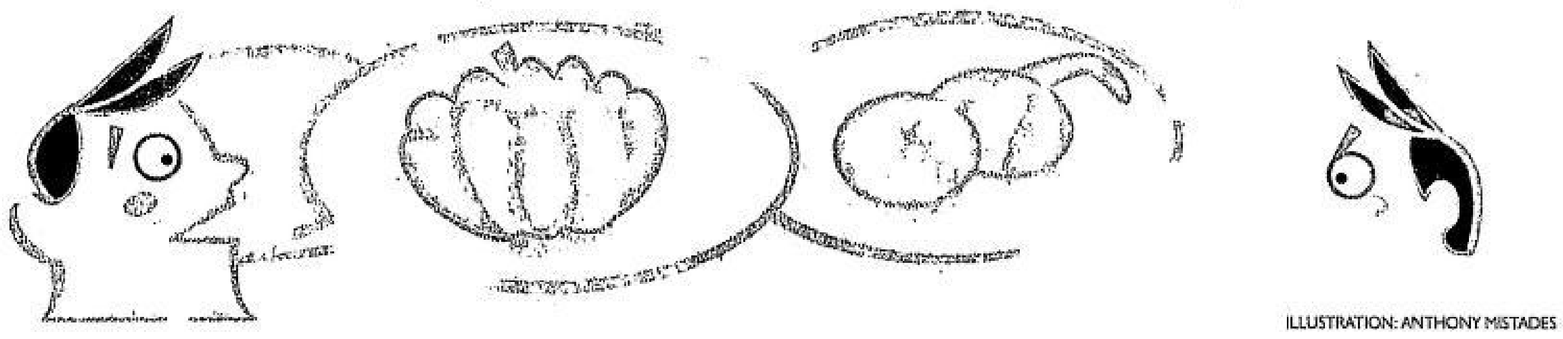

ILLUSTRATION: ANTHONY MISTADES

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

The language of food

FOR HER UPCOMING COOKBOOK, NORA Daza wrote in her "Pumpkin Pie" recipe introduction that squash can substitute for pumpkin.

She also wrote that she never ate squash because "it has this negative connotation in our culture. We call squash '*calabasa*' and to be called that means that you're a failure."

That set me thinking. What other food words in our language connote something else, whether bad or good?

Failure is also what *nangangamote* means. Sweet potato or *camote* is my favorite whether simply boiled or cooked as *camote cue* or sliced thinly, fried then eaten with sugar.

Why it should be used to mean not making the grade is beyond me. I do remember that, for a while, there was a movement to eradicate its negative meaning because the root crop is a healthy and cheap food.

But that campaign did not quite make it because it is difficult to eradicate what has been so ingrained in our culture and thinking.

On the other hand, I have always found it amusing that at the Philippine Military Academy, to be called the "goat" means being the last in the class academically. That I learned from my father, a PMAer.

Whenever we watched the graduation ceremony of the military school in Baguio, we always waited for the goat, the last one to be called to get his diploma. He or, now, she, usually gets the biggest applause because, in spite of the ranking, the cadet made it.

Treasured animal

That puzzled me because during my father's time, majority of his classmates were Ilocano like him, and so goat was a treasured animal in their culinary culture, the only ingredient worthy to be made into *papait* and *kilawin*.

Goat is better, though, than *tonto*. In Leyte, that is the name of a seasonal fish that is highly prized because of its milky flesh. Why the name? Because it was stupid enough to be caught, Leyteños told me. But then so are all the fish in the sea.

The misuse of an idiomatic expression was also heard in Leyte where a candidate thanked those who voted for him, claiming he was the "apple of your eyes." It was irritating to see those posters all over the place but it was worse to hear that he actually threw apples at people during a victory parade. The apple became a missile as it hit unsuspecting receivers of his bounty.

I can almost hear some friends expressing exasperation upon hearing that story. And they will always use two phrases: "*anak ng tupa*" (sheep's offspring) or "anak ng tokwa" (child of a soybean cake). In the vein of my uncle's "*lekat!*" those are in my collection of inexplicable phrases.

Food expressions depend also on which generation you belong to. My son orders most of the time from the restaurant Lutong Macao. He was surprised when I told him that the name meant a "cooked deal."

For his age group, the language-food

THE LANGUAGE/ D3

At the PMA, 'goat' means being the last in the class academically

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ANNOUNCES THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULE OF CLASSES:
Mon. to Fri. classes are from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM (sharp) • Sat. classes are from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM (sharp)

Nov. 16	FRI	4 Different Health Soups
Nov. 17	SAT	Slimming Fried Rice, "Tong Kong" Stuffed Bean Curd, Spare ribs steamed in tamarind, Duck Stewed with Taro Root, Bonus recipe: Blanched live shrimps
Nov. 19	MON	Authentic Fresh Lumpia, Duck in Salt Water, Ham Sandwiched in Winter Melon.
Nov. 20	TUE	Stewed Mutton, Chop Suey Noodles, Chicken Wrapped in Lotus Leaves, Kong Pao Diced Chicken
Nov. 21	WED	Fried Dumplings (Stick Pot), Coconut Snow Balls, Fried Spring Roll
Nov. 22	THUR	Chicken Siopao (Yeast Dough), Birthday Peach Roll, Peanut Butter rolled in Buns
Nov. 23	FRI	Fried Duck with Crispy Taro, Fish Fillet with Bean Curd, Eight Precious Bean Curd Soup, Stir Fried Clams with Chili Bean Sauce
Nov. 24	SAT	"Maki" (Pork in thick cornstarch), Sago Pudding, Egg yolk thousand layer cake
Nov. 26	MON	Spare ribs with salt and chili, Stir fried frog legs with garlic, Dried scallops winter melon soup, Braised fish tail.
Nov. 27	TUE	Pan roasted pigeon or squabs, Stir fried beef with kangkong, Stir fried shrimps with green peas, Crab meat with two kinds of flowers.
Nov. 28	WED	Steamed crab roe dumpling, Water chestnut cake, Almond gelatin
Nov. 29	THUR	Stuffed Crab Pincers, Pan Broiled Prawns, Baked Crab in Port Wine, Dried Scallops with Hair Vegetable in Redish

Lessons in December such as Different Kinds of Siomai, How to make Asado, XO Sauce, Ho Fen, Cheung Fen, etc.
Avail of our complete list of schedule thru email: ccac01012006@yahoo.com or come to our office.
Limited seats per class. First enroll, first served basis.

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THE CONSUMER

Her dream is turning into a nightmare

By Linda B. Bolido

ZENAIDA T. JAVIER IS A retired government employee who dreamed of acquiring a property fronting a beach that she and her husband can enjoy with their grandchildren.

She thought her dreams would come true when she bought a small lot in Lian, Batangas, from a well-known development company.

The company's brochures, prospectus, and other marketing materials promised a residential community with all the essential facilities and amenities.

"I made the full payment of the purchase price of the said lot on Jan. 5, 2002, or almost six years ago," she said.

But the company "stopped developing the subdivision project according to the approved plans and within the time limit for complying with the same." And, until now, Javier has not yet received the certificate of title for the lot despite having paid the full amount in 2002.

Javier, who believes she is only one of thousands of Filipinos being victimized by "housing scams" like this, said, "I had made a number of demand letters... and... they replied with apologies and promises that were never acted upon. I asked for reimbursement of the full payment [I made] but got no response."

Javier said she had filed a complaint with the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board hoping to get relief from the government agency and have the subdivision developer dealt with according to law.

But, just as she has been waiting for the developer to make good on its promise, the government agency appears to be also taking its time acting on her complaint.

Javier said it was very disappointing that after all her hard work, even working overtime to raise the money to pay for her dream property, she would have this kind of experience and with a company that she thought was reputable because of its high profile.

She wants other property buyers to learn from her experience and not to assume that, because a company is well-known, it will be trustworthy.

At the same time, she wonders, given HLURB's silence, where people like her can go for help when they are victimized by unscrupulous developers.

Boorish owner

The owner of a new restaurant in Makati may have to change his hosting manners if he wants to stay in the business.

A reader said she brought her *balikbayan* sister to the restaurant for a celebratory dinner.

Her sister, who arrived at the restaurant ahead of her, complained about a foreigner who tried to pick her up.

"Apparently, when she arrived, he... offered her a glass of wine," the letter writer said.

The group proceeded to place their orders but most of the items they wanted were not available. And the food, when it finally arrived, was not up to par that they left half of it untouched.

The foreigner, who tried to pick up the *balikbayan* sister, approached their table and they discovered he was the owner. When they complained about the food, he said the party would not be charged for it and offered to make amends further by offering them champagne.

But when told that nobody in the group drank, he looked at the *balikbayan* sister again, according to the letter writer, and said, "[What about] endless sex?"

The woman's brother told the foreigner to leave their table while the *balikbayan* warned the restaurant owner that what he did was sexual harassment.

The owner was apparently miffed by the exchange and made the group pay for their food, despite his earlier pronouncement.

Reportedly, the owner is a drunk and other customers have complained about him. It was learned that even some media people were treated to his drunken antics.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph

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Shopping with care for proper cooking

You have to know where to get the ingredients you need for culinary success

By Cynthia Valdes, *Contributor*

I WALKED INTO OUR ALABANG Village Saturday Market.

A lady from Malabon sells a nice *matamis na macapuno (masarap na, mura pa)* that I cannot resist although, like most women conscious about their looks, I do try to count calories.

You can actually do *matamis na macapuno* if you are so inclined. It is easy. Add proportionate amounts of water and sugar to the grated *macapuno* to cook, stirring continuously. A dash of vanilla extract and a few pieces of *garbanzos* will make it look and taste better.

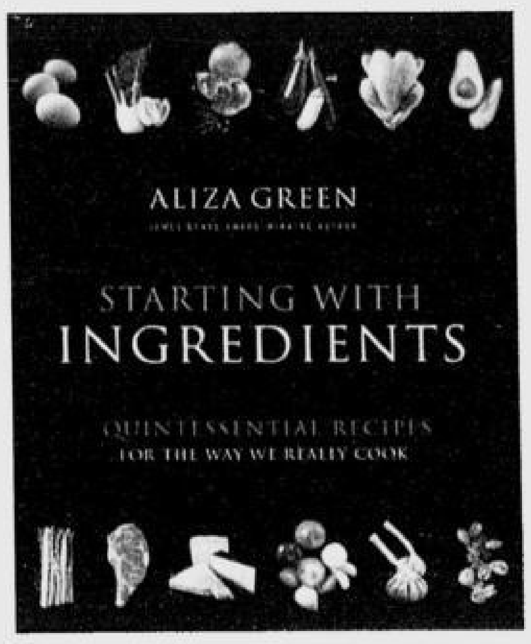
Problem is you will not always find *macapuno* (a freak coconut) in the BF Homes or Muntinlupa markets, near where I live. *Macapuno*, except for the bottled commercial stuff, is not sold in our supermarkets either.

To go back to the Saturday Market, at the entrance, a young person, rather aggressive but I guess she was just trying to sell her product, offered me "Wagyu beef."

"Your son buys Wagyu beef from me," she said. I wondered which son. And what is "Wagyu beef?" One more newfangled thing the younger generation has managed to foist on us?

Happily, a new book I chanced upon at Chapters and Pages provided the answer. Chapters and Pages is really just a bookstand just outside California Pizza Kitchen and Gift Gate on the second floor of Alabang Town Center.

Since I am a cheapskate always looking for a bargain, I frequent this place. The books are cheaper because most are damaged or second-hand items. They issue official receipts for purchases even when you do not ask.


ALIZA GREEN
STARTING WITH INGREDIENTS
QUINTESSENTIAL RECIPES FOR THE WAY WE REALLY COOK

Celebrated author Aliza Green says in a new cookbook, "Starting with Ingredients (Quintessential Recipes for the Way We Really Cook)" published by Running Press, US, 2006, Wagyu is really Kobe beef. Put another way, Kobe beef comes from Wagyu cattle, a cross between native Asian and European cows. It was first developed in the late 19th century in Japan's Kobe Prefecture, an industrial zone in Osaka Bay near Kyoto. *Wa* means Japanese and *gyu* means cattle.

Cook it right

Since Kobe Beef is expensive, you will want to make the most of your investment by at least cooking it right. Green suggests that Kobe beef be seared quickly (brown it on the outside), making sure to keep it rare inside. The steak will then be smooth, velvety and incredibly sweet.

As the meat is sold frozen, remember to thaw it gently in the refrigerator (about 6-8 hours) before cooking. There is no need to marinate steak. Just add salt and pepper to taste as you fry it (with olive oil or butter, salted or unsalted) in a flat, preferably heavy skillet (cast-iron frying pans are still best). Do not overcook. Serve immediately with a scoop of mashed potatoes.

The easiest way to do mashed potatoes is to boil potatoes in their jackets. Cook until soft. Use a fork to check for doneness. If you are doing only small amounts, peel and pass through a handy potato masher adding butter as you go.

You can add more butter, some full-cream evaporated milk (not too much), salt and pepper to taste, and blend everything in an osterizer or kitchen-aid mixer.

Bake it

If you are doing a lot, you can put it in a Pyrex container, top with a dash of mozzarella or cheddar and bake until the top has a nice golden finish.

Serve steak with lightly buttered stir-fried vegetables (carrots, zucchini or *sayote*) on a warmed-up (if you can manage it) plate.

If you are pressed for time, packaged vegetables (green peas, corn and carrots) are a good idea. Lightly toasted slices of French bread with garlic butter (Minggoy's Restaurant at Casa Susana in Alabang does this so well) should complete the meal.

A fruity red wine, Italian Valpolicella or French Bordeaux, will go well with most flavorful meat dishes. Australian, Spanish, German and New Zealand wines are highly visible at Santi's shelves but, for some reason, they now do not carry California wines.

After a full meal like that, you may want to skip dessert and just lean back in your chair and relax while sipping some hot water or tea.

We recommend a cup of freshly brewed espresso. Try Monks' Blend, premium coffee from roasted and ground Arabica and robusta produced by the Benedictine Monks at the Transfiguration Monastery in San José, Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

Remember that the best buys are not always in a wet market even if prices there are lower. Maybe for fish, and if you go early, the local wet market is better.

But most vegetables, however, are better bought in supermarkets. If you are doing Greek salad, red radish is available at South Supermarket. The sweet white onions to go with it are difficult to find.

Feta, like other cheeses, can also be found in most supermarkets. In Alabang, nothing beats the celery at Santi's, but it costs a fortune. Makati Supermart has a good selection of lettuce. The same goes for South Supermarket.

Shopping know-how, just like good cooking, can only be learned through experience and constant practice. You have to care and care enough to want to learn.

OLD GOLD
OLD GOLD
DARK CHOCOLATE

Dark is bright for your health

WHO SAYS CHOCOLATES ARE NOT good for your health? Studies suggest that those who like to eat chocolate, at least the dark variety, may actually be promoting their own health and well-being.

Dr. Dirk Taubert and his colleagues, in an article published in The Journal of the American Association, say dark chocolate is actually good for the health because it is a potent antioxidant. It helps fight off free radicals, destructive molecules that may cause heart disease and other ailments. Dark chocolate lovers also have higher levels of epicatechin, a particularly healthy compound found in chocolate.

What is more, dark chocolate has cocoa phenols that help lower blood pressure. Chocolates made in Europe are generally richer in cocoa phenols than those made in the United States. Cadbury Old Gold is one such chocolate. It is made from the finest and pure dark chocolate.

"We're very excited about the launch of Cadbury Old Gold as it represents another quality product from Cadbury's impressive chocolate roster. Cadbury Old Gold doubled the dark chocolate market in Australia from 2001-2003 and it has been the No. 1 brand since. We're confident that Cadbury Old Gold will also have a strong following among discerning Filipino chocoholics who crave only the best in chocolates, especially since dark chocolate offers lots of health benefits," says Cadbury product manager Geraldine Gilera.

Available in plain dark chocolate and with roast almonds, Cadbury Old Gold delivers the ultimate chocolate experience. It has a rich, smooth flavor that excites the taste buds.

Being made entirely from dark chocolate, consumers are not only enjoying a delicious treat but may also be doing something good for their health.

Remember, when the next sweet craving comes around, reach for dark chocolate like Cadbury Old Gold and experience its delicious taste plus its many health benefits.

[illegible]

In Cebu, the most magical place to be in this Festive Season is the Marco Polo Plaza. Make your plans early and celebrate the Festive Season at Cebu City's finest!

CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, 2 December, 6:00 PM
The ceremony that signifies the start of the Festive Season! Enjoy an evening with the Peace Philharmonic string quartet, children's choir and children's ballet ensemble.

Christmas Carols in the Lobby, 16-23 December, 6:00 PM
The angelic voices of various choirs fill the atrium with classic Christmas carols.

Children's Wonderland, 16 December, 3:00 PM
Bring your kids to Wonderland where toys, fun-filled games and Sponge Bob Square Pants await them. Php500.00 nett/per person, entrance and light snacks.

Christmas Eve Dinner, 24 December, 7:00 PM
Your choice of venue for a festive Christmas buffet dinner. Whether it's at Café Marco, El Viento or the Grand Ballroom, you and your family will delight in the sumptuous cuisine Marco Polo Plaza is famous for. Dynamic Latin band Caliente performs at El Viento while Interact plays retro music at the Ballroom. All buffet dinners at Php1,108.00 nett/person.

Christmas Eve Mass, Grand Balcony
24 December, 10:00 PM
Midnight Mass under the stars. Featuring a live re-enactment of the Nativity scene.
Also featuring the Metrobank Cebu Choir.

Noche Buena, Café Marco, 24 December, 11:30 PM
The traditional way of celebrating Christmas Eve with a Filipino style merienda buffet.
Php370.00 nett/person.

Christmas Day Brunch, Café Marco
25 December, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Wake up late on Christmas Day and let Café Marco treat you and your family to all the holiday culinary delights you've been dreaming of. Php1,108.00 nett/person.

NEW YEAR'S COUNTDOWN

Revelry on 31 December starts at 7:30 PM
It's all happening at the Marco Polo Plaza Cebu on New Year's Eve! Welcome 2008 with a delightful **buffet dinner** anywhere at the hotel and enjoy complimentary entrance to the Grand Balcony for the New Year's countdown and spectacular fireworks display.

Café Marco and **El Viento,** Php 1,188.00 nett/person.

Garden Terrace, Featuring the Caliente Band.
Php 1,588.00 nett/person.

Grand Ballroom, International artist Anna Fegi entertains over dinner, followed by the versatile Flintstones & The Gang for all-night dancing. Php 2,008.00 nett/person.

Grand Balcony, Entertainment starts at 11:00 PM by the Soul Mafia, with countdown, fireworks and all-night dancing under the stars. Php 588.00 nett/person for walk-ins. Includes glass of sparkling wine.

New Year's Day Brunch, Café Marco
1 January 2008, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Start the year with a festive brunch at Café Marco.
Php 1,108.00 nett/person.

Purchase [illegible] New Year's Eve dinner [illegible] one (1) free. Offer valid only for Garden Terrace and Grand Ballroom buffet dinner.

Enjoy family togetherness this Festive Season with special room rates from December 23, 2007 to January 2, 2008 for local residents starting at only Php3,800.00 nett per night, inclusive of breakfast. Those staying for two nights or longer get fabulous discounts.

For inquiries and reservations please call (032)253-1111.
In Manila, please call (02) 8454574.

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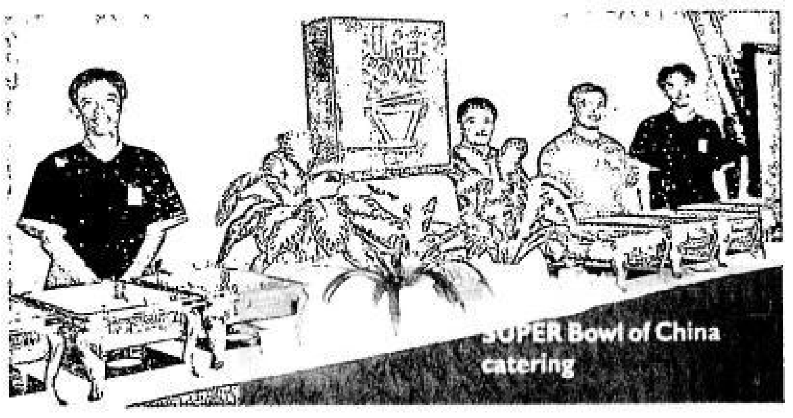
Chinese dishes for your next party

ENJOY YOUR FAVORITE CHINESE dishes when you hold family gatherings, office parties and meetings, and other events.

Super Bowl catering is available for a minimum of 50 persons offsite and a minimum of 30 persons on site. It offers complete meals that include appetizers, soups, noodles, entrees, rice and desserts.

Super Bowl of China favorites include Crispy Lemon Chicken, Honey Glazed Pork Ribs, Sliced Beef with Broccoli, Deep-fried Cuttlefish with Spicy Salt, Sauteed Mixed Vegetables, Hunan Tofu, Diced Chicken with Salted Fish Fried Rice, Roast Duck, BBQ Pork Asado and an assortment of dimsum items and noodle dishes.


SUPER Bowl of China catering

Catering amenities include buffet table, chairs, china, and service crew. Super Bowl's Executive Food Packs are available starting at P140.

Super Bowl of China's Super Catering Service is available only within Metro Manila (7472845). It has branches at Glorietta 4 and Jupiter Street, Makati; Festival Mall, Alabang; SM San Lazaro; SM City North Edsa; SM Megamall Megastrip; Blue Wave, Marikina; Gateway Mall, Cubao; Blue Wave, Pasay City; SM Mall of Asia, Pasay City; SM San Fernando Pampanga and Trinoma Mall, Quezon City.

Adobo, cheesecakes and thanksgiving buffet

CHEF REGGIE ASPIRAS IS CONDUCTING the following cooking classes:

Nov. 16: My Adobo! '07 (all new)—Deep-fried Angus Short Ribs Adobo with Whole Garlic served with brown garlic rice and pan drippings; Whole Roasted Kurobota Pork Belly Adobo with Mixed Herbs; Pork Adobo in Chicken Liver Sauce served with banana compote,; Chipirones (Baby Squid Adobo) with Bell Pepper Rice and Saffron Aioli; Chicken Adobo sa Sukang Iloko at Gata with Tropical Fruit Relish

Nov. 17: Thanksgiving Buffet '07 (all new, special class)—Delicious Corn Bread Muffins with Pumpkin Butter; Carrot Soup; Beet Salad; Turkey 2 Ways (Traditional Brined Roast with Chestnut Apple Sausage Stuffing, Cranberry Compote, Pan Drippings, Potato Gratin; Delicious Brined, Stuffed and Deep-fried Turkey with Gravy, Membrillo Glaze, Honey Kamote & Salsas); Pumpkin Pie So Good

Nov. 19: The Best of My Cheesecakes '07 (all new)—Ube Cheesecake with Cucumber Sauce; Kalamansi and Mango; Kamote; Green Tea with White Chocolate and Blueberries; Guava; Dulce de Leche with Casuy Brittle; Barako Cheesecake

Nov. 21: Can't Believe It's Tilapia '07 (all new)—Whole Fried Tilapia with Chili Garlic Sauce; Grilled with Salsa of Tropical Fruits; Smoked Tilapia with Horseradish Sauce; Pan-fried Tilapia with Bell Pepper Sauce, Steamed 2 Ways (Tilapia with Cilantro Pesto & Steamed Cantonese Style); Pan-fried Tilapia with Mushrooms in Wine Vinegar; Tilapia in Watercress Cream.

Holiday class schedules are out. Call 9289296 or 9273008.

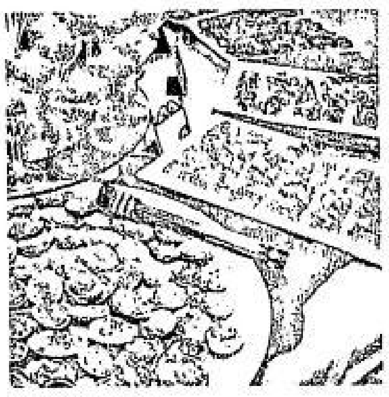
Tapas night

ALBA RESTAURANTE ESpañol celebrated recently the Spanish Month by presenting different varieties of the popular appetizers called *tapas*.

Anastacio de Alba and his son, chef Miguel de Alba, treated guests that included media people and representatives of Instituto Cervantes to a feast of more than 50 *tapas calientes* (hot tapas) and *tapas frias* (cold tapas).

Included on the menu for "Tapas Night" were Chorizo Fritos, Alcachofas con Jamon, Gambas al Ajillo, Champignon a la Plancha, Tabla de Embutidos, Aceitunas con Anchoa, Sardinas Picantes and new tapas like Coca Majorca (Coca de Berenjenas y Puerro, Coca de Espinacas, Coca de Pisto y Sardinas and Coca de Berza y Chorizo), Carilla de Vaca al vino rojo, Mejillones al Tigre, Tortilla Catalana and Tostadas.

A trio of musicians played old Spanish tunes. Sangria and wine complemented the various dishes.


TAPAS buffet

Alba Restaurante Español has branches on Polaris Street, Bel-Air, Makati (tel. 8966950-51, 8904399); Tomas Morato corner Scout Lozano, QC (9251912, 9287129 or 4117052); and One Luna Lifestyle Center, Eastwood City, Libis (6312216-17).

It offers lunch buffet at P495+ per person, 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m., in all branches; and dinner buffet at P595+ per person, 6:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m., at Tomas Morato and Eastwood branches.

The language of food

From page D1

connection only goes as far as "value meals."

Congee as profit

Yet my son understood "*tubong lugao*" right away. It describes a huge profit made from whatever business is undertaken. I suppose it is because he likes congee though I told him that *lugao* had more water and less rice.

Funny in a bizarre way was how one friend was told he was almost "*na-lechon*" because he did not wake up when the fire alarm went off in a hotel where we were staying. In other words, if the fire reached his room, he would have been roasted.

When a messenger boy climbed a tall coconut tree and lost his footing, he was lucky that an able-bodied fellow messenger boy instinctively caught him otherwise, he was told, "*pagkakapehan ka na sana namin.*"

Drinking coffee to stay alert, after all, is what one does during wakes.

For me, the best phrase to indicate a person's kindness is *pusong mamon*. It is being soft-hearted but at the same time being naive as to be swayed by some sob story.

While I get the sense of *nagmumurang kamatis* as acting too young for one's age, I don't have the exact explanation for it. I am thinking that when a tomato is still young, it is greenish and when it ripens, it becomes red.

So, to go back to that youngish stage, means one is trying to go back to the state of being greenish or *mura*.

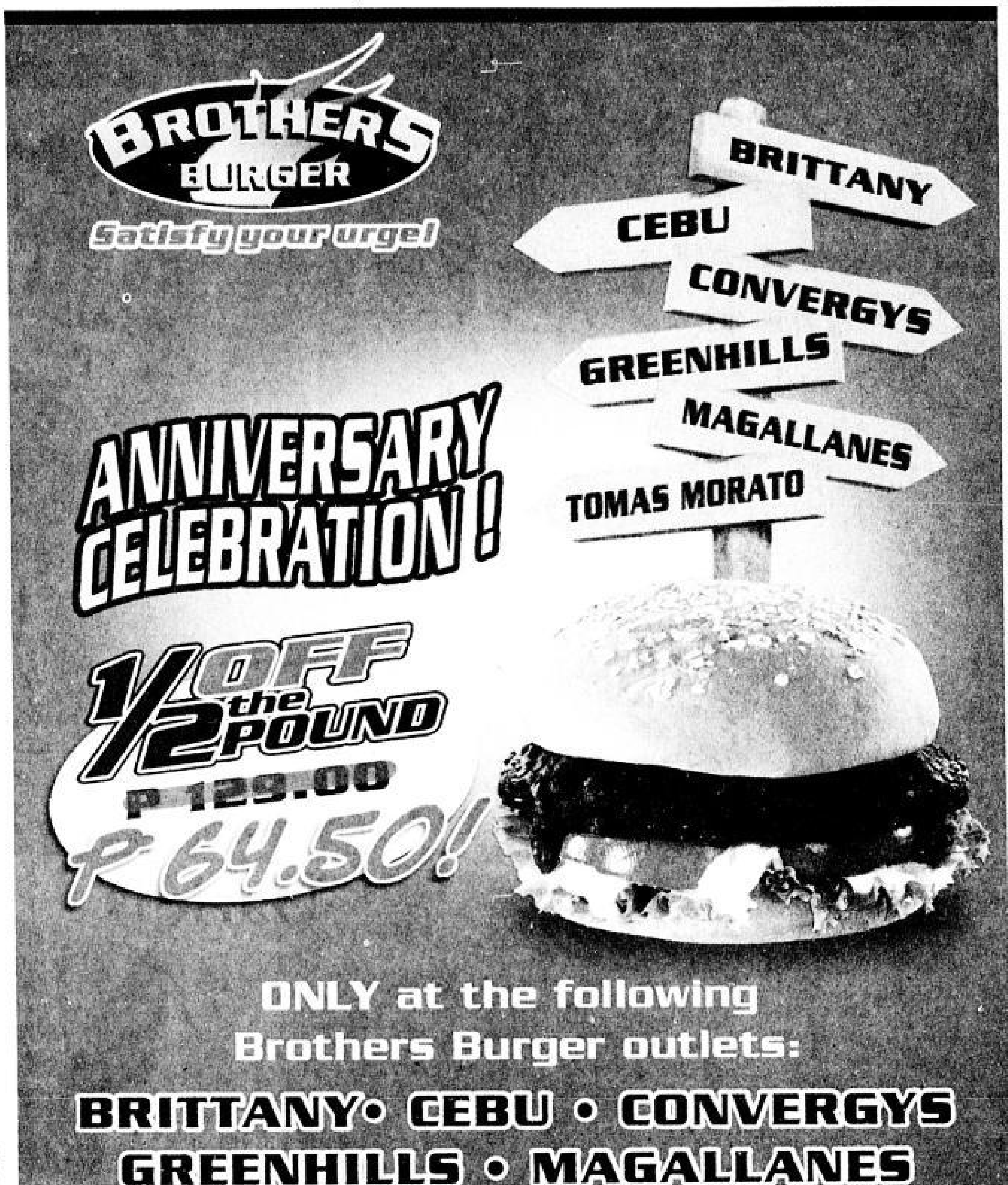
Which brings me to "*may asim pa*," again a phrase that refers to a person still looking and feeling young in spite of the obvious biological age. I have heard it said of older athletes also who still have the skill and stamina.

Apart from *asim*, there are other tastes used to describe certain conditions.

Mapait na karanasan is bitter experience, often heard in Tia Dely's radio program. *Matamis na pagmamahalan* is literally sweet love.

Those are all Tagalog terms, however. If Pampangos, Cebuanos, Ilocanos, Warays and Bicolanos out there can give me other samples of food and taste in language, please e-mail me.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com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BROTHERS BURGER'S BIG, BEEFY HALF-OFF BLOW-OUT!

Celebrating 8 years of flame-grilled goodness

Beef up your appetites and make sure to wear loose pants because you can have as much Big Brothers Burgers you want at half the price! You read it right! 50% OFF ON THE JUICY, CHUNKY HALF POUNDER! It's Brothers Burger's way of thanking you for continuing to make it your hamburger of choice. A yummy anniversary treat! Only on November 15, Thursday, from 11am - 9pm. Available for dine-in or take-out at these celebrating Brothers Burger outlets Convergys, Brittany, Magallanes, Greenhills, Tomas Morato and Cebu. The last four outlets are among Brothers Burger's fast-growing franchises. Aside from strategic location, the proven profitability and high reviews for the consistently premium food quality drew highly motivated entrepreneurs to invest in Brothers Burger. One thing's for sure though, whether company owned or franchised, you'll get to enjoy the same flame-grilled goodness you've grown to love each time you bite into a Brothers Burger creation.

Brothers Burger is King In The Queen City

With young chefs dishing out their take on our all-time favorites, it's no wonder that the Filipino palate has become more sophisticated and discriminating than ever. The classic hamburger for example, has gone a long way from being an immigrant food consumed on boats on the Hamburg-America line. Today, it can be enjoyed as a gourmet sandwich at Brothers Burger. Now, a flame-grilled burger may be smothered with blue cheese or cream cheese with garlic. Or complemented by a sautéed mushroom-and-cheese topping. It's your designer burger that's ready in a jiffy! Pair it with Brothers Burger's crunchy onion rings, skin-on potato or French fries, and dip into tangy, creamy mayonnaise!

It's not surprising then that since 1999, Brothers Burger has been making headway in the flame-grilled category. Not your run-of-the-mill burger, it has gained popularity with its consistent quality, freshness, taste and variety. So when four enterprising foodies decided to open a restaurant in Cebu, they didn't think twice about applying for a Brothers Burger franchise. Under the company name Southern Ventures, Inc. they opened up an outlet at the Queen City's bustling Banilad Town Center two years ago. Since then, they have enjoyed a full house. "Everything just fell into place. And we're so happy to have given Cebuanos the opportunity to enjoy such great, gourmet food," attests the partners. "In fact, Brothers Burger is a surefire hit at parties and school fairs. At the sight of our cart, kids queue up!"

They all share the same sentiment that it was very easy to forge a partnership with Brothers Burger. "We hit it off with Brothers Burger's management team right away. We've established valuable rapport. Communication lines are always open. The system is easy to adapt and the marketing and advertising efforts of the chain really help. In fact, we're very happy with the turnout. We definitely made a wise investment. With encouraging sales, we feel like we're the king of the world!"

Other companies who have jumped onto the Brothers Burger franchising bandwagon are Next Level, Inc which manages Bros. Burger Greenhills; Realica-Macatangay, which manages BB Magallanes and Beef 'O Segas, which manages BB T. Morato. For franchising inquiries, log on to www.brothersburger.com.ph or email franchise@brothersburger.com.ph.

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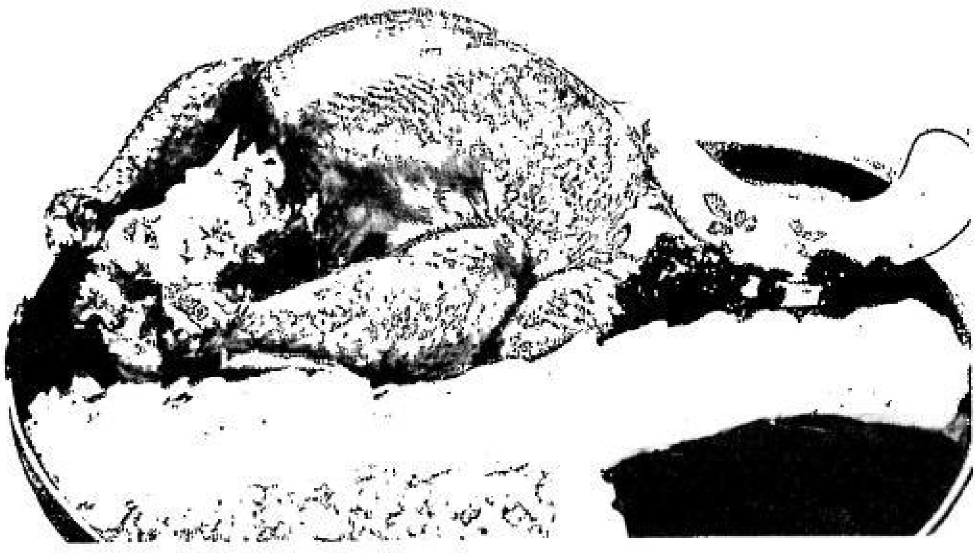


THANKSGIVING ROAST TURKEY
The US Roast Turkey is chef Eli Aurelio's specialty for Thanksgiving, Nov. 22. It comes in 5- and 10-kilo sizes and served with choice of meat stuffing, apple and apricot, or oyster stuffing, imported mashed potato, buttered corn, giblet gravy and cranberry sauce. Call 7269329, 7267321, 0921-6665925 or 0920-8434749.

Pre-Christmas treat for foodies

THE SAN MIGUEL PUREFOODS Culinary Center gives food enthusiasts a special pre-Christmas treat.

Sylvia Reynoso-Gala is guest chef in the final leg of the 2007 Mobile Kusina Live! to be held Nov. 17, 1-4 p.m., at San Miguel Corp. head office cafeteria, Ortigas, Pasig City.

SYLVIA Reynoso-Gala

Reynoso-Gala, who mentored some of the country's top chefs, now brings her culinary instruction to a broader audience through the live cooking demonstration of Mobile Kusina Live!

Though she wants to keep the Mobile Kusina audience in suspense, Reynoso-Gala promises "something different, something traditional with a few surprises. Our promise is not to disappoint them when they come and see the event."

The kitchen-on-wheels concept of Mobile Kusina Live! aims to educate and entertain audiences in key cities across the country with cooking demonstrations featuring respected regional chefs.

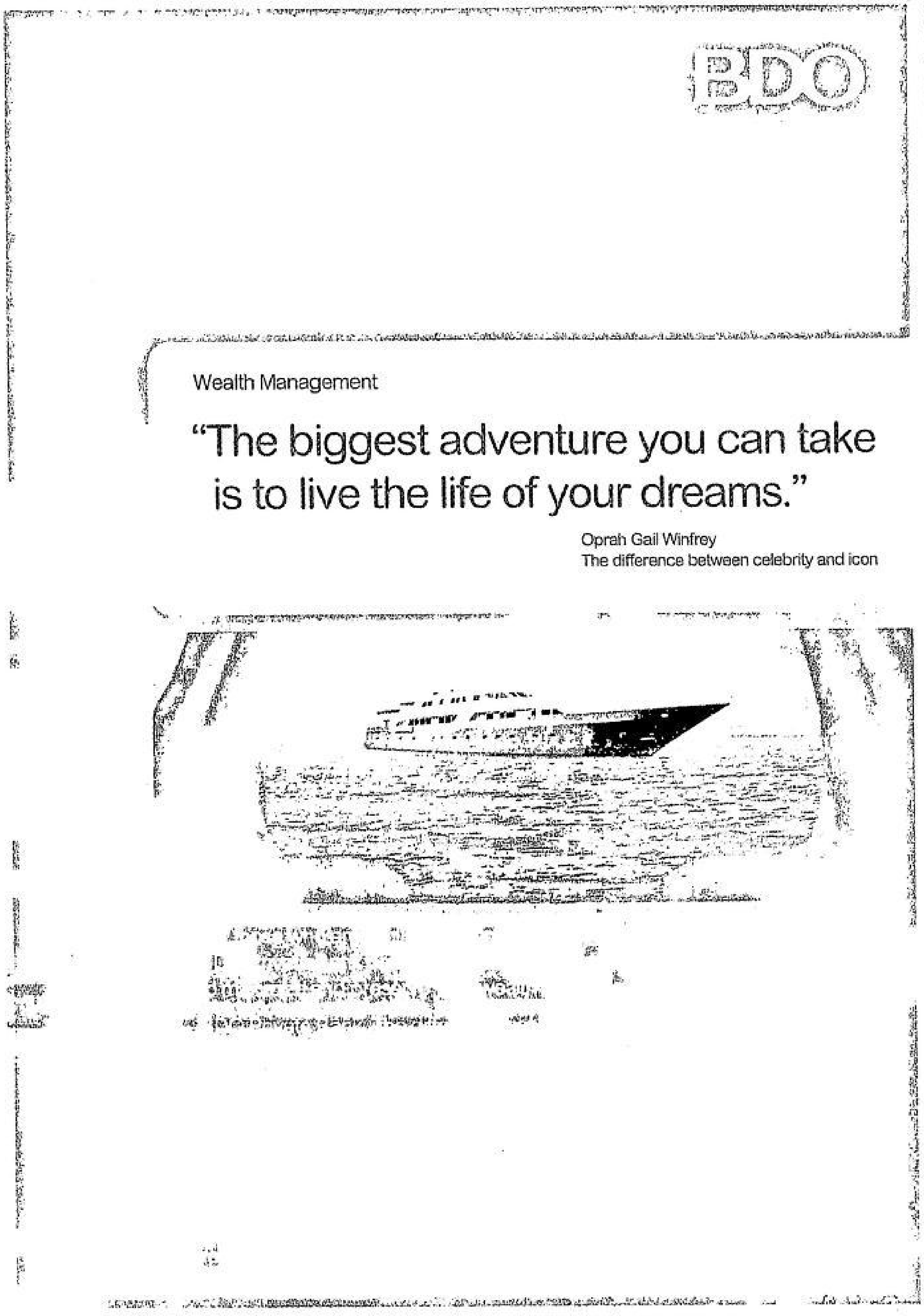
The chef will start her own television show in 2008 that will teach viewers how to prepare select recipes at home. A cookbook is also in the works.

Reynoso-Gala is also planning to expand her cooking school, possibly with the participation of foreign partners/chefs.

She says the classes will be affordable and hands-on, and will reach out to those wanting to earn extra income, or go into the food business.

Thinking of the holidays ahead, Reynoso-Gala says people should make a checklist and organize everything. They should prepare the ingredients ahead of time so the holidays will be hassle-free and more enjoyable.

Registration for Mobile Kusina Live! starts 12 noon. Participants who want to get raffle tickets should bring three empty wrappers of any San Miguel Purefoods products. Great Food Club members should just present their IDs. Visit www.mygreatfood.com or call 6322000, 6719876 loc. 2771 or 402.



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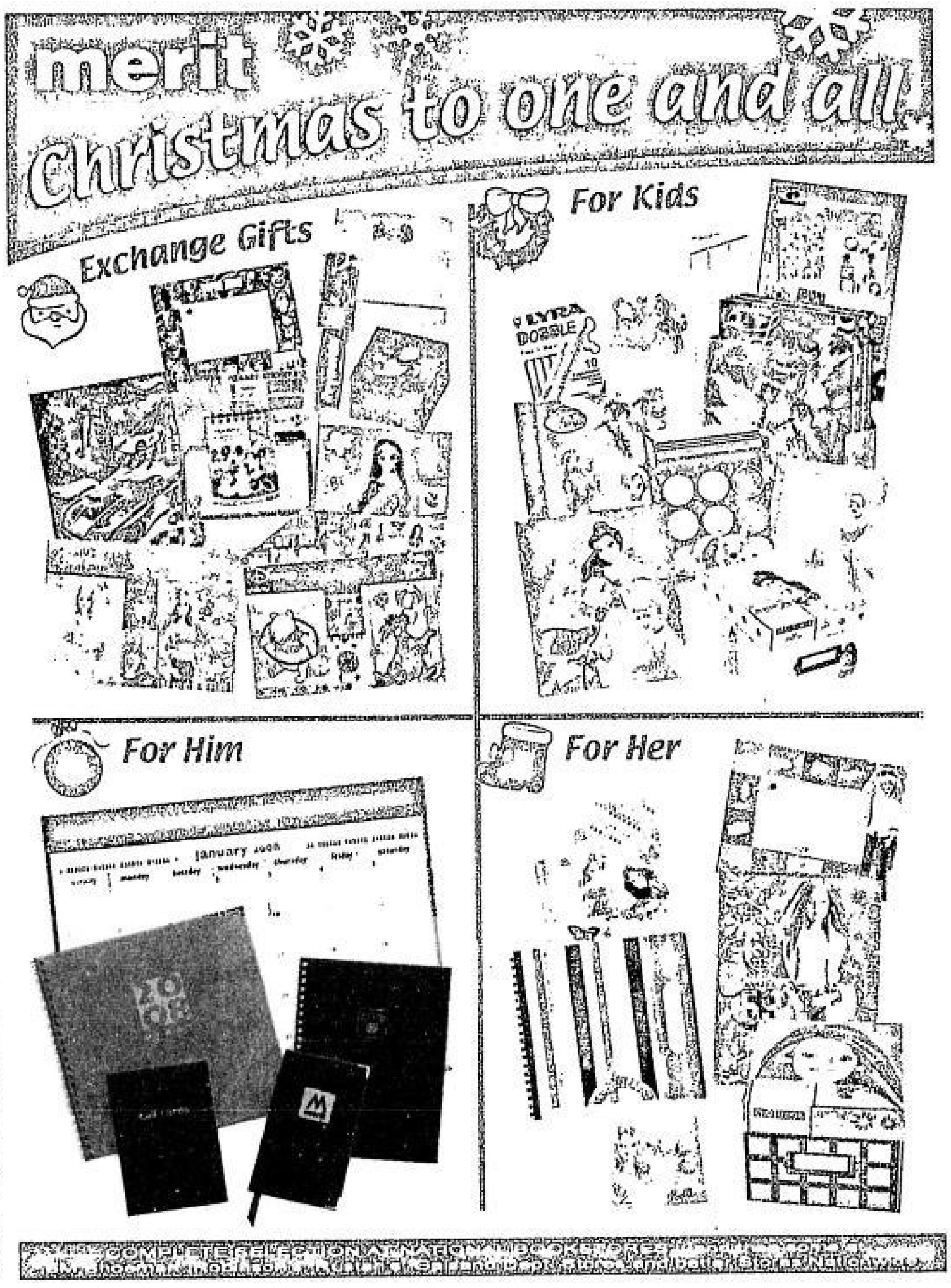

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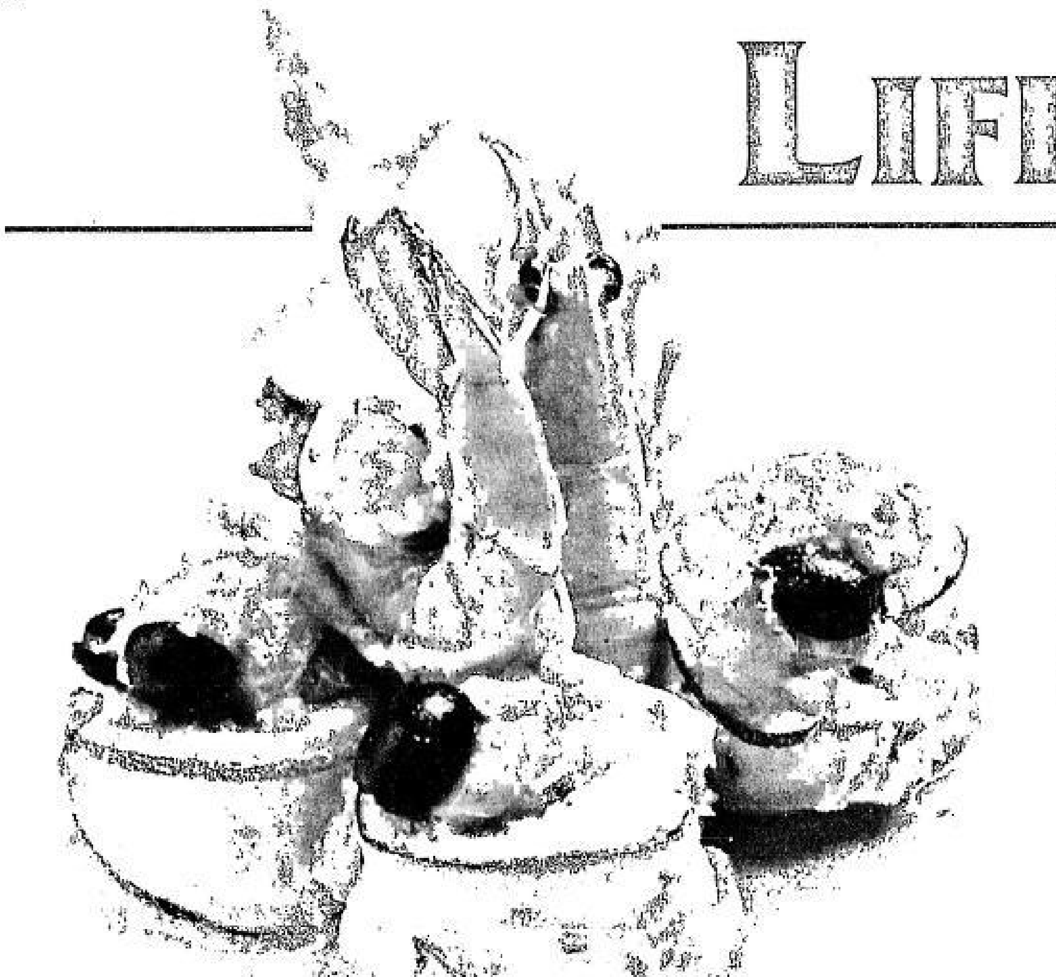
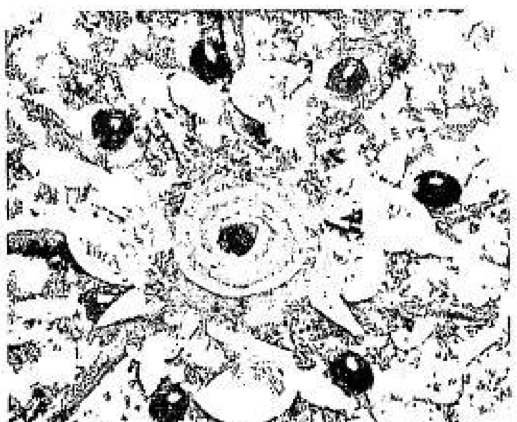
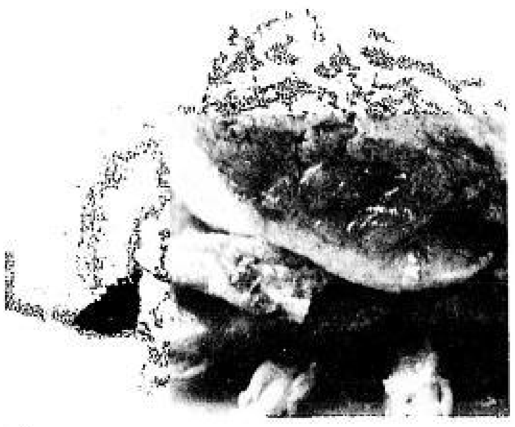


ROTOLINI di Branzino con Zucchini, rolled sea bass with zucchini and sauteed fresh vegetables in extra virgin olive oil





LEFT: CARPACCIO di Polpo, thinly sliced steamed octopus. Below: Filetto di Manzo con Fegato d'oca in salsa tartufata con spinaci e asparagus, US beef tenderloin

A new taste of Italy

PANNA Cotta al miele tartufato

L'OPERA MARKS ITS 13TH YEAR BY adding a refreshingly new twist to its lineup of dishes.

Chef Moreno Matteir's team, which has been with the restaurant from the beginning, now works in a glassed show kitchen.

L'Opera uses only the freshest ingredients. For the *aperitivo* there is Vagabondo, a crisp glass of Grappa and Limoncello or Prosecco. Livornese is Galliano, Amaretto di Saronno with hints of Vodka.

Diners can then enjoy homemade pastas that now include Ravioli al Fegato d'Oca Ripieni di Ricotta Mascarpone in Salsa Delicata al Tartufo; *foie gras* ravioli with hints of ricotta and mascarpone in a delicate truffle sauce; and, for the vegetarian, Tagliatelle ai Funghi Freschi Porcini, tagliatelle pasta in fresh porcini mushroom sauce.

Ravioli al Aragosta is fresh lobster-filled ravioli in a thick cream sauce. The Linguine Salmone e Caviale combines Norwegian smoked salmon and caviar fresh from the sea.

A must-try is Petto d'Anatra in Salsa di Tartufo with its seared and then grilled deboned French duck breast in truffle cream sauce. The Bresaola condita con Scoglie di Parmigiano al Profumo di Arancia combines slices of cured and air-dried Italian beef flavored with orange and garnished with parmesan shavings.

L'Opera uses the healthy and tasty Italian Arborio rice in its Risotto ai Funghi Porcini, which is rice in rich porcini mushroom cream sauce.

Dessert includes L'Opera's famous Tiramisu and Tartufo Cioccolato, Italian chocolate gelato covered in a crust of crunchy chocolate chips with a red cherry core. Panna Cotta al Miele Tartufato has honeyed truffle syrup, sweet balsamic vinegar and walnut toppings.

L'Opera, now at Bonifacio Global City, has a Tuscan-style façade, timber finishes, frames of exposed brick and large palladium-style floors from Italy. It serves lunch 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and dinner 6:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Call 8893963 or 8892784.

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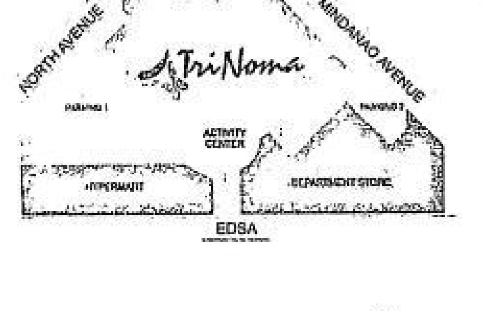
With hundreds of trendy shops carrying the world's top brands, a classy oasis-like ambience that soothes and relaxes, and world-class cinemas that give you the ultimate in entertainment, spending a leisurely day in Trinoma Mall is definitely one of life's small pleasures. And so is discovering that – there's a **Bangus Restaurant** right inside the mall – a great find indeed when you're craving for some seriously good food to cap that perfect day.

Bangus is located on Level M1 Plaza (see map), welcoming you with its cozy interiors, warm and friendly staff, and of course its array of popular Filipinos specialties such as Sinigang na Puro Tiyan ng Bangus, Sugpo sa Aligi ng Talangka, Crispy Pata, Chicharong Balat ng Bangus, Sizzling Bangus Fillet and Green Mango Shake, to name a few.

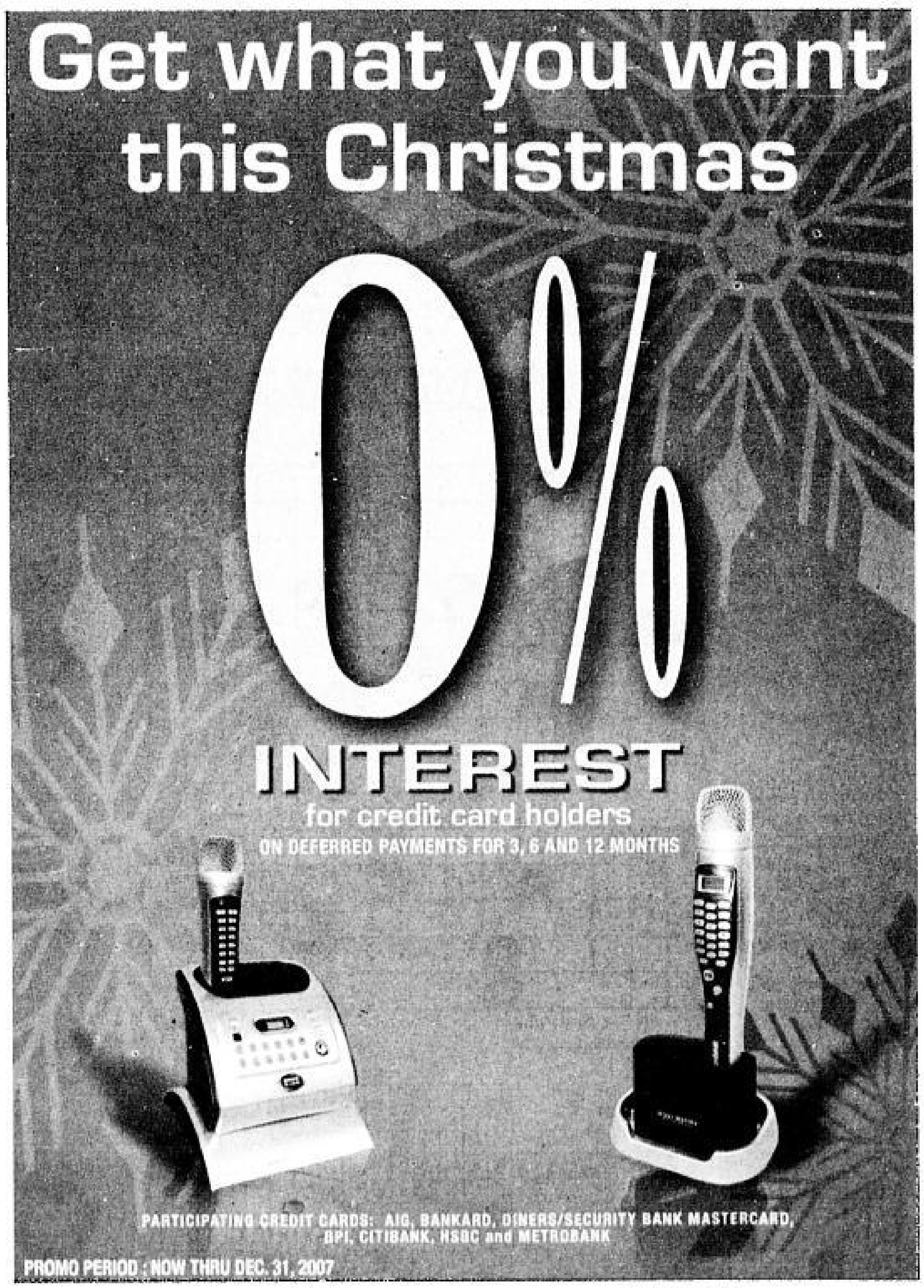
Try too the latest delectable creations to come out of Bangus' busy kitchen. Mga Piling Pinakikilala is a special menu that introduces newly-created delights such as Tokwat' Bangus with Kinchay, Perlas sa Gintong Sarsa with Crispy Kangkong, Parus Parus Guisado, and Guagua Humba.

The next time you find yourself basking in the sumptuousness of Trinoma Mall, remember, you're just a few steps away from still another treat -- an unforgettably great dining experience at Bangus Restaurant



Contact
Bangus Restaurant
at the following
numbers:

Trinoma
9013532 & 9013533
Greenhills
7228750 & 7253038
Robinson's Galleria
6350561 & 6321806
SM Mall of Asia
5560386



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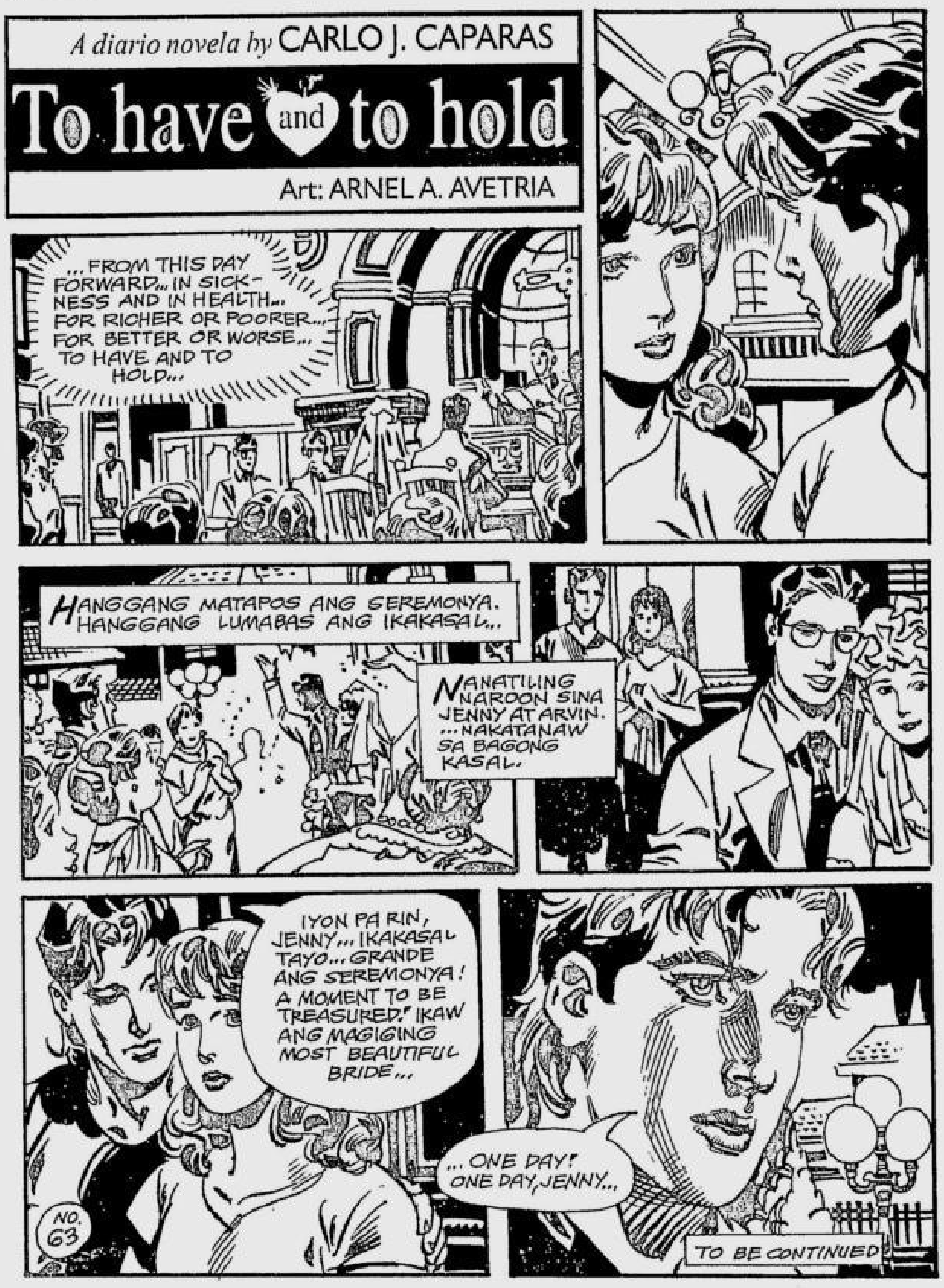
A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS

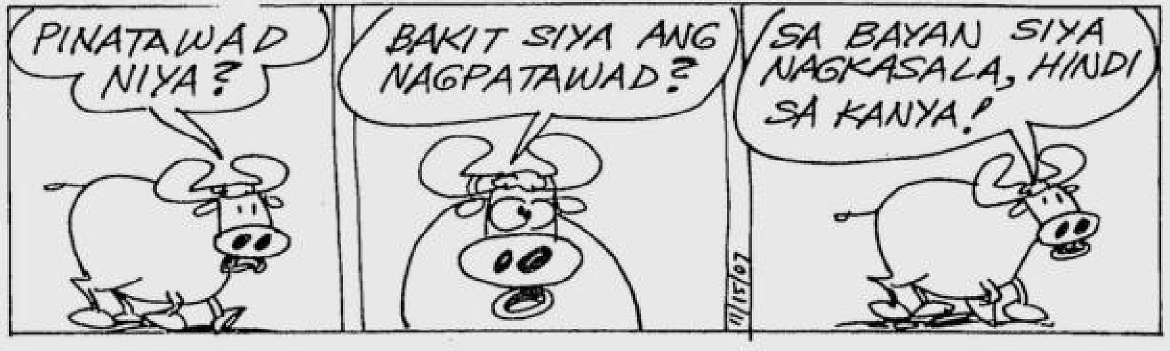
To have and to hold

Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA


...FROM THIS DAY FORWARD... IN SICKNESS AND IN HEALTH... FOR RICHER OR POORER... FOR BETTER OR WORSE... TO HAVE AND TO HOLD...
HANGGANG MATAPOS ANG SEREMONYA. HANGGANG LUMABAS ANG IKAKASAL...
NANATILING NAROON SINA JENNY AT ARVIN. ...NAKATANAW SA BAGONG KASAL.
IYON PA RIN, JENNY... IKAKASAL TAYO... GRANDE ANG SEREMONYA! A MOMENT TO BE TREASURED! IKAW ANG MAGIGING MOST BEAUTIFUL BRIDE...
...ONE DAY! ONE DAY, JENNY...
NO. 63
TO BE CONTINUED

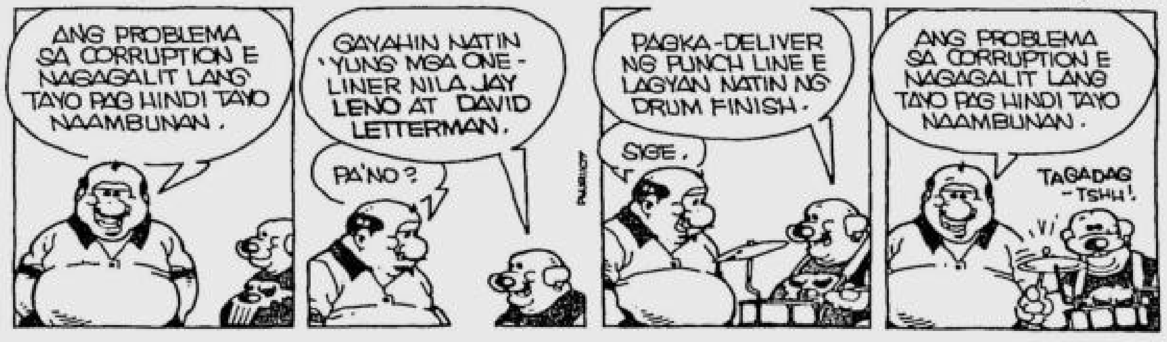
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PINATAWAD NIYA?
BAKIT SIYA ANG NAGPATAWAD?
11/15/07
SA BAYAN SIYA NAGKASALA, HINDI SA KANYA!

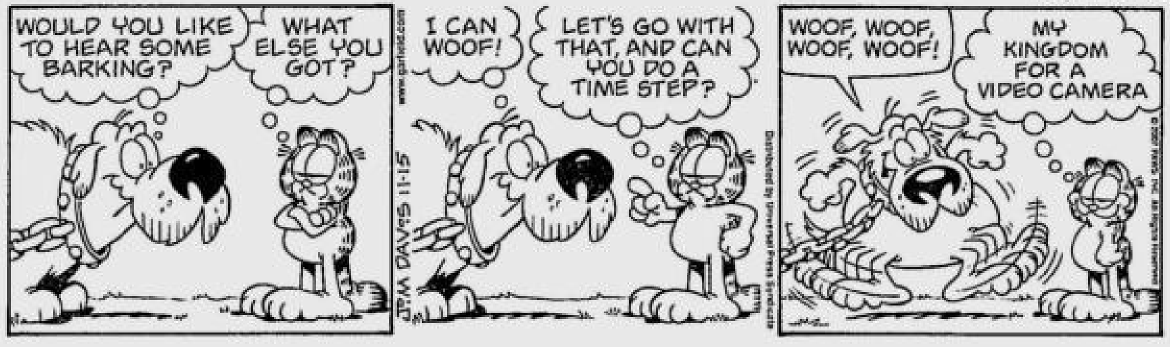
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG PROBLEMA SA CORRUPTION E NAGAGALIT LANG TAYO PAG HINDI TAYO NAAMBUNAN.
GAYAHIN NATIN 'YUNG MGA ONE-LINER NILA JAY LENO AT DAVID LETTERMAN.
PA'NO?
PAGKA-DELIVER NG PUNCH LINE E LAGYAN NATIN NG DRUM FINISH.
SIGE.
ANG PROBLEMA SA CORRUPTION E NAGAGALIT LANG TAYO PAG HINDI TAYO NAAMBUNAN.
TAGADAG -TSHH!

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS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LET'S GO WITH THAT, AND CAN YOU DO A TIME STEP?
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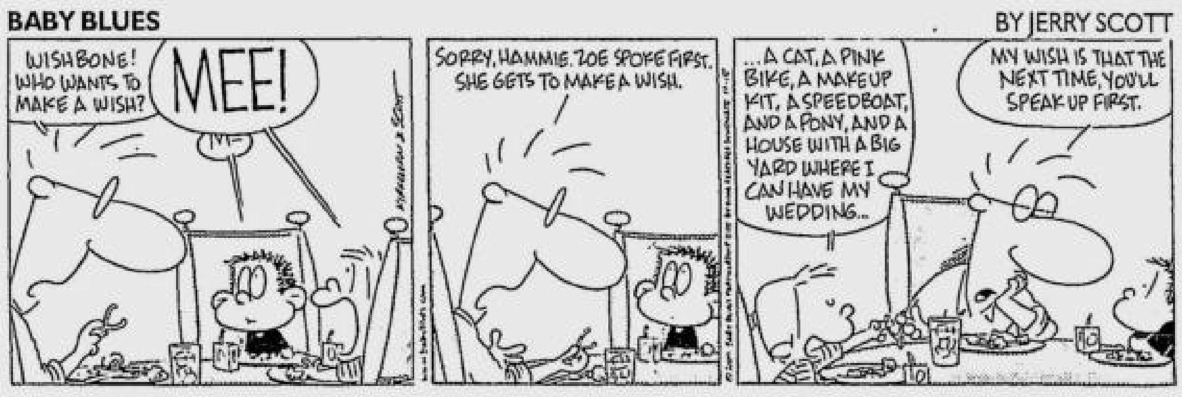
WOOF, WOOF, WOOF, WOOF!
MY KINGDOM FOR A VIDEO CAMERA

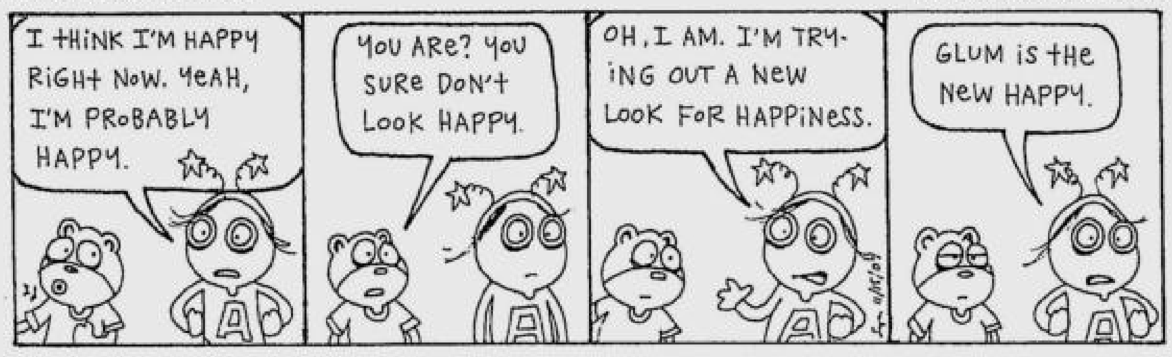
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WISHBONE! WHO WANTS TO MAKE A WISH?
MEE!
KIRKMAN & SCOTT
SORRY, HAMMIE. ZOE SPOKE FIRST. SHE GETS TO MAKE A WISH.
...A CAT, A PINK BIKE, A MAKEUP KIT, A SPEEDBOAT, AND A PONY, AND A HOUSE WITH A BIG YARD WHERE I CAN HAVE MY WEDDING...
MY WISH IS THAT THE NEXT TIME, YOU'LL SPEAK UP FIRST.

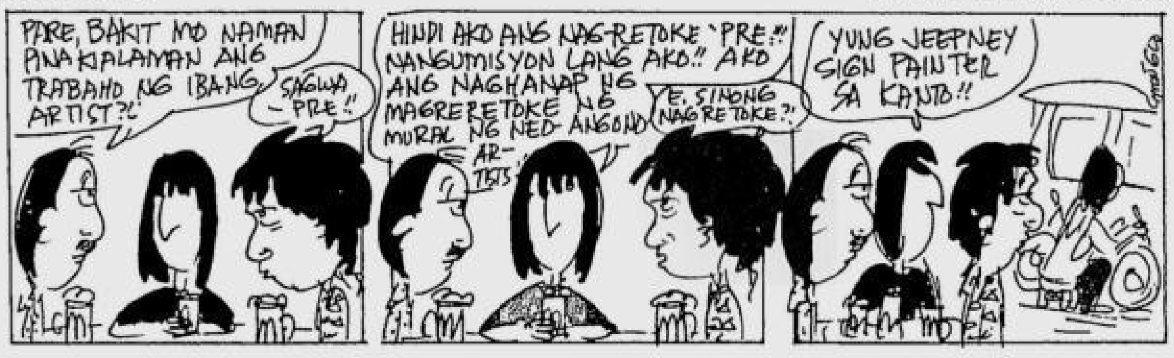
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I THINK I'M HAPPY RIGHT NOW. YEAH, I'M PROBABLY HAPPY.
YOU ARE? YOU SURE DON'T LOOK HAPPY.
OH, I AM. I'M TRYING OUT A NEW LOOK FOR HAPPINESS.
GLUM IS THE NEW HAPPY.

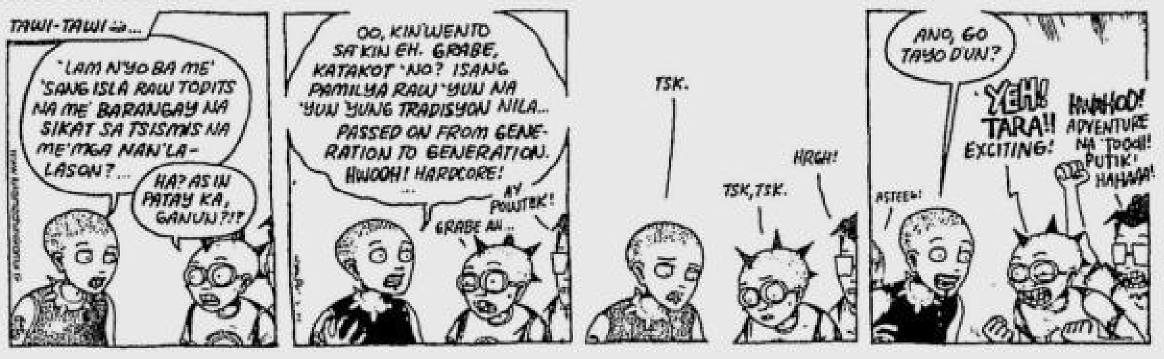
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PARE, BAKIT MO NAMAN PINAKIALAMAN ANG TRABAHO NG IBANG ARTIST?!
SAGWA -PRE!!
HINDI AKO ANG NAG-RETOKE 'PRE!! NANGUMISYON LANG AKO!! AKO ANG NAGHANAP NG MAGRERETOKE NG MURAL NG NEO-ANGONO AR-TISTS!
E, SINONG NAGRETOKE?!
YUNG JEEPNEY SIGN PAINTER SA KANTO!!

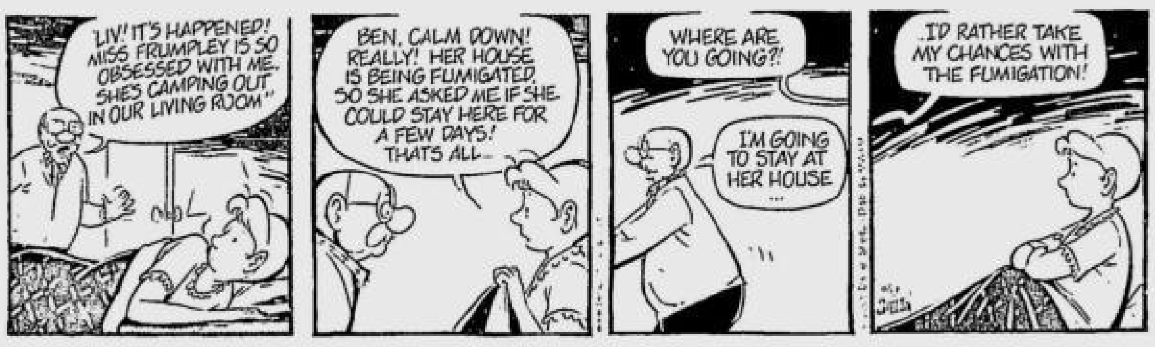
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TAWI-TAWI...
'LAM N'YO BA ME' 'SANG ISLA RAW TOPITS NA ME' BARANGAY NA SIKAT SA TSISMIS NA ME'MGA NAN'LALASON?...
HA? AS IN PATAY KA, GANUN?!?
OO, KIN'WENTO SA'KIN EH. GRABE, KATAKOT 'NO? ISANG PAMILYA RAW 'YUN NA 'YUN 'YUNG TRADISYON NILA... PASSED ON FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. HWOOH! HARDCORE!
GRABE AH...
AY POWTEK!
TSK.
TSK, TSK.
HRGH!
ANO, GO TAYO D'UN?
ASTEEG!
YEH! TARA!! EXCITING!
HWHOO! ADVENTURE NA TOOO!! PUTIK! HAHAHA!

BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


LIV! IT'S HAPPENED! MISS FRUMPLEY IS SO OBSESSED WITH ME, SHE'S CAMPING OUT IN OUR LIVING ROOM!
BEN, CALM DOWN! REALLY! HER HOUSE IS BEING FUMIGATED, SO SHE ASKED ME IF SHE COULD STAY HERE FOR A FEW DAYS! THAT'S ALL...
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
I'M GOING TO STAY AT HER HOUSE...
...I'D RATHER TAKE MY CHANCES WITH THE FUMIGATION!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Going by yacht
5 Queries
9 San Antonio shrine
14 Cosmonaut Gagarin
15 Educator Horace
16 Muggy
17 Kuwaiti ruler
18 Start of Ed Howe quote
20 Football, to many
22 Lowest digit
23 Roman way
24 Wash. neighbor
25 Inscribed slabs
27 Part 2 of quote
31 Vienna's river
34 Start a new hand
35 Sushi choice
38 Social conventions
39 Put a stop to
40 Part 3 of quote
42 Tax letters
43 Absinthe flavoring
45 Diving bird
46 Punta del __
47 Cavalry weapons
49 Part 4 of quote
51 Assemble
54 Quilters' gathering
55 "SportsCenter" stn.
57 Corrida cry
58 Peruse again
62 End of quote
65 Unclothed
66 Twilight, poetically
67 Sicilian resort
68 Asian sea
69 Peddles
70 Went under
71 Tradition source

DOWN

1 Old assents
2 National sport of Japan
3 Stoltz of "Mask"
4 Use a certain conditioner?
5 Almond liqueur
6 Downswing
7 Entanglements
8 Nose
9 Sounds of delight
10 Tenor Pavarotti
11 Unprofessional
12 Deep, slimy soil
13 River to the Baltic
19 Title paper
21 Mess up
26 Himalayan monk
27 Perfect example
28 Medicinal herb
29 Non-swimmer's hangout
30 Fling
32 "The Barber of Seville" role
33 German city
36 Keanu in "The Matrix"
37 Particle
40 Track event
41 Taking ten
44 Tabloid topic
46 Unending
48 Like broken horses
50 Born as
52 Pixies
53 Queen of Spain
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56 Only
59 Continental cash
60 Hebrew month
61 Proofreader's mark
63 Mornings: abbr.
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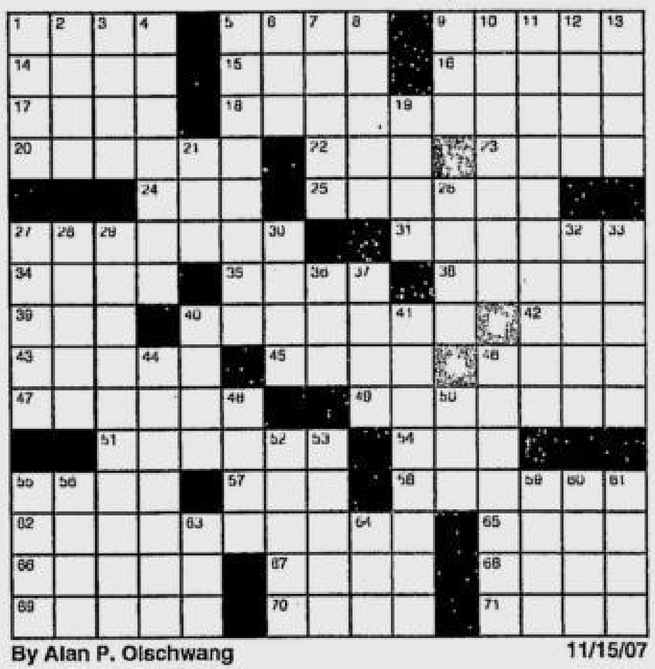

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
11/15/07

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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11/15/07

HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: Because you are intense, you often have intense encounters with others. You are fair-minded and brave. You're patient, hardworking and extremely independent! In the next year, you'll likely wrap up something with which you've been involved for the past nine years in order to make room for something new to enter your world.

Birthdate of: Georgia O'Keeffe, painter; Beverly D'Angelo, actress; Kevin Eubanks, guitarist.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Once again, you'll have an opportunity to finish up things at home, especially renovations or domestic projects. Old differences might suddenly surface again with family members. (Yikes!)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): In the next month, you can finish negotiations that are already on your plate, or once again convince someone to agree with you about something. It's as if you have a second chance at something.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Your efforts to earn money might slow down now. Alternatively, you might find that an old idea you once considered is now looking quite doable.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today Mars goes retrograde in your sign. You might feel a bit stymied or stalled in the water. During the next month, you have an opportunity to finish things or correct how you did something.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Take care of messy details with the government and large institutions. You can wrap up something that you've been postponing. Leave nothing to chance.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Old differences with friends might suddenly start to surface again in the month ahead. Ask yourself, Are they worth losing a friendship over?

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your ambition to achieve a certain project seems to be stalled at the moment. Instead, focus on finishing what needs to be redone or repaired

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Travel plans or anything connected with publishing and higher education could be delayed now. You might have to go back and redo something. And so it goes

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Negotiations with others, especially related to inheritances, insurance matters and debt might get bogged down in the months ahead. However, perhaps this is your chance to improve things for yourself?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): When dealing with partners and close friends, old arguments seem to be back on the table again. You might just be beating a dead horse. Is this all really necessary?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): If your production slows down at work, don't worry. Consider this an opportunity to really do something in a better way. This time you can repair mistakes and recover losses.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Old flames and romantic interests from the past could re-enter your life in the next month. Don't kid yourself about anything. Quite likely, nothing has really changed.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis SudoKu By Dave Green

		3	5					2
	4			7				
8					2			
1					3	4		
	7			9			3	
		2	7					8
			2					5
				4			8	
5					1	9		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/15

2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

5	7	2	8	6	3	1	4	9
8	4	3	7	1	9	2	6	5
1	6	9	2	4	5	3	7	8
2	8	4	6	7	1	5	9	3
9	3	6	4	5	8	7	2	1
7	5	1	9	3	2	4	8	6
4	2	5	1	9	6	8	3	7
3	9	7	5	8	4	6	1	2
6	1	8	3	2	7	9	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 11/14

Cook off's winning recipes

TEAM LYCHEES OF LA CONSOlacion College and Team Animo of the De La Salle University-College of St. Benilde topped the recent Reynold's The Strongest Wins Cook Off.

Here are the winning recipes during the grand finals held at the SM South Mall.

Floating Sea Bass with Exotic Mushrooms in Wasabi Sauce

500 g sea bass
5 g salt
5 g white pepper
100 ml sesame oil
200 ml white wine
50 g ginger
5 g *tobiko*
100 g portobello mushrooms
100 g shiitake mushroom
50 g enoki mushroom
50 ml olive oil
5 g salt
5 g pepper
100 g wasabi powder
50 ml water
1 tbsp butter
50 g shallots, minced
30 g button mushrooms, minced
1 c fish stock
50 ml all-purpose cream
Pinch of salt
Pinch of white pepper

Prepare six small baskets using aluminum foil. Pour about 1 tbsp of sesame oil into each basket.

Prepare 5 c of poaching liquid in a pan. Mince the ginger. Set aside.

Cut the sea bass into six cubes. Season each cut with salt and white pepper. Transfer the fish into individual baskets.

Pour about 2 tbsp of white wine into each basket, or until fish is almost submerged. Add in the minced ginger.

Transfer the baskets onto the pan and poach for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, cut the shiitake and portobello mushrooms vertically. Transfer the shiitake, portobello and enoki mushrooms to a baking sheet lined with aluminum foil.

Drizzle mushrooms with olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Roast in the oven for 10 minutes at 350°F.

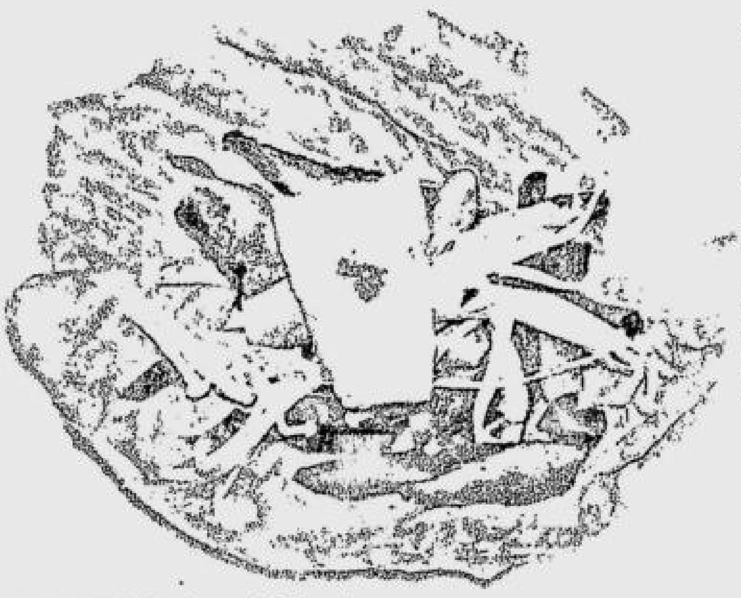
Remove the sea bass from the pan when cooked. Reserve the liquid inside the baskets.

To make the sauce, dissolve the wasabi powder in water. Set aside.

Saute the shallots and button mushrooms in butter.

Add the fish stock then simmer. Remove the pan from the heat then add the all-purpose cream. Season with salt and pepper.

Add the wasabi mixture to finish the sauce.



FLOATING Seabass with Exotic Mushrooms in Wasabi Sauce

Christmas Pork Loin with Capsicum Pilaf and Green Peas Quenelle in Smokey Barbeque Sauce

Christmas Pork Loin:
2 k pork loin
30 g salt
30 g pepper
10 g cloves
10 g cumin
1 pc bay leaf
30 g paprika
30 g cayenne pepper
30 g onion powder
30 g garlic powder
100 g white sugar
200 ml soy sauce
100 ml banana catsup
100 ml olive oil
500 ml water
Maple bradley bisquettes

Season the pork loin with salt and pepper.

In a sauce pot, marinate the seasoned pork loin with all the remaining spices, soy sauce, water, olive oil and sugar. Simmer for 20 minutes.

Layer Reynolds aluminum foil and place a wire rack.

Put the Maple bradley bisquettes at the bottom of the rack and the pork loin on top of the rack, overlapping the sides to make a dome.

Smoke for 5 minutes.

Bell Pepper Pilaf:
500 g jasmine rice
100 g red bell pepper
100 g yellow bell pepper
2 pc star anise
50 g white onions
1 l chicken stock
50 ml olive oil

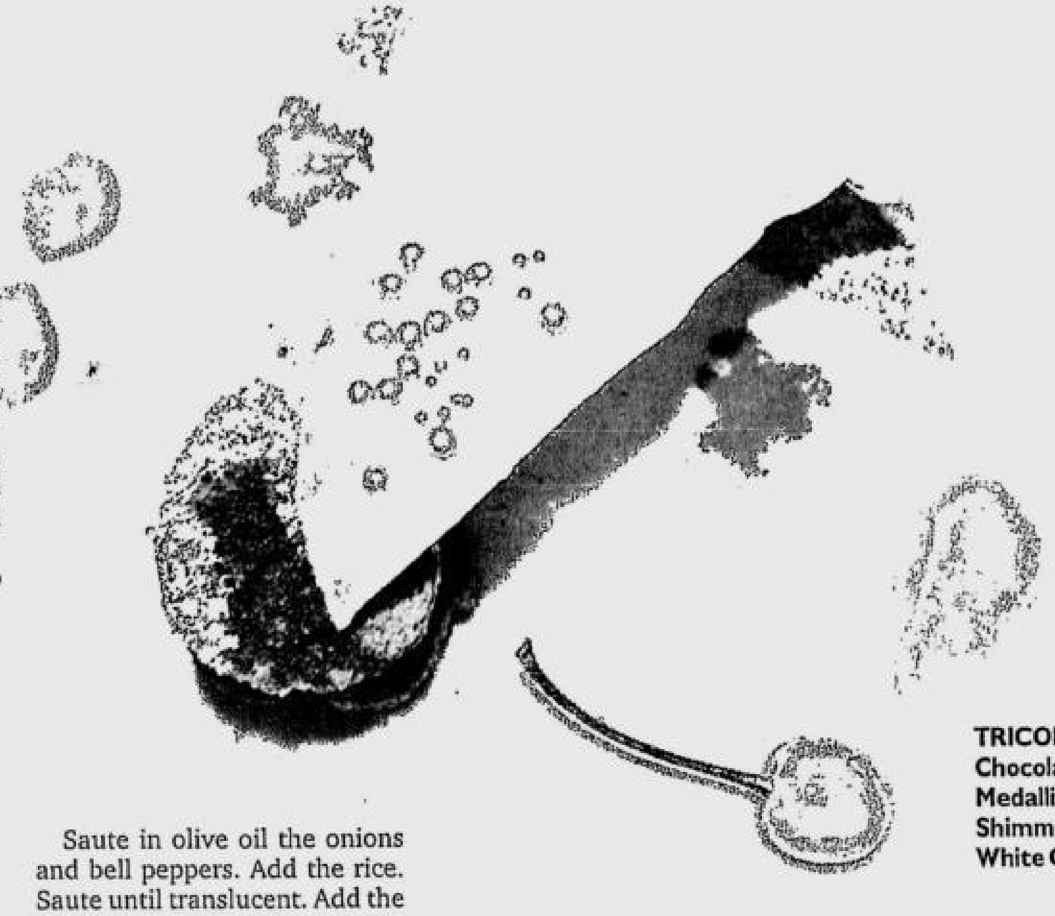
Saute in olive oil the onions and bell peppers. Add the rice. Saute until translucent. Add the stock and cover with Reynolds aluminum foil. Place in a 350°F preheated oven for 15 minutes.

Green Peas Quenelle:
300 g green peas
50 g chicken stock
Cherry tomatoes (garnish)

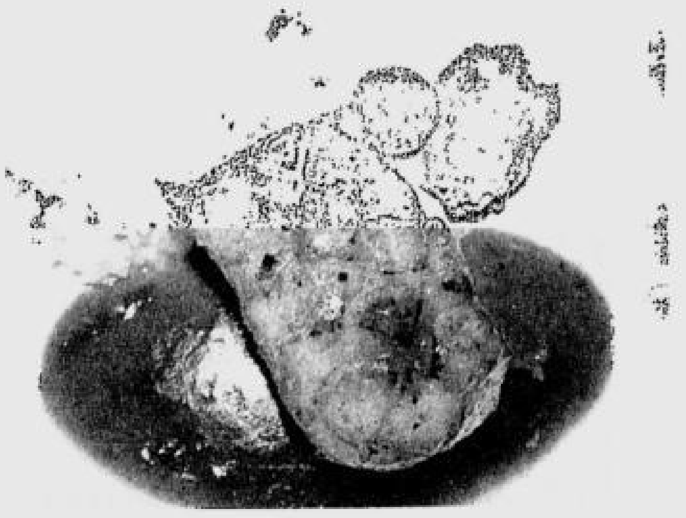
Boil the green peas. Remove the skin. Add stock and blend using a blender.

Smokey Barbeque Sauce:

Reduce the pork loin marinade.



TRICOLORED Chocolate Medallions with Shimmering White Crescent



CHRISTMAS Porkloin

Tri-Colored Chocolate Medallions with Shimmering White Crescent

500 g dark chocolate, chopped white chocolate
225 ml heavy cream-colored stardust
60 g butter
5 ml vanilla extract
30 ml orange liqueur
100 g ground pistachio
50 g red vermicelli
50 g cocoa powder
Gold leaf
Caramel syrup

For the chocolate medallions, bring cream to a boil then pour over the chopped dark chocolate and let sit for 1 minute.

Using a spatula, mix until smooth. Mount with butter and mix until smooth and shiny. Add vanilla and liqueur, blend until thoroughly incorporated. Chill until slightly set.

Line a bamboo mat with foil. Spoon the chilled ganache and form into a log. Chill until firm.

When firm, slice into 1-inch thick medallions.

Roll the sides of 6 medallions into the cocoa powder then top with gold leaf—6 into the ground pistachio and 6 into the red vermicelli. Set aside in the chiller.

For the white-chocolate crescent, melt white chocolate over a double boiler. Let it cool to room temperature.

Crumple a sheet of foil and spread on a flat surface. Cut 6 triangles from it.

Spread a thin layer of melted white chocolate over the triangular foil. Place it on a mold until it hardens.

Remove foil from the chocolate. Brush the outer part with stardust.

A taste of South Africa

TRADITIONAL SOUTH AFRICAN cuisine, cheese and wine will be showcased during a food and wine festival at Restaurant 9501 Nov. 19-23.

The event is organized by the South African Embassy, in cooperation with Restaurant 9501 of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. Other sponsors are South African Airways (SAA) and Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT).

The menu will be under the supervision of Jerome Peters, *sous* chef at Cape Peninsula University of Technology who will be flying in from South Africa specially for the occasion. He will be closely working with Restaurant 9501 managing director Myrna Segismundo and her kitchen brigade.

This first South African culinary fest in the country will include such dishes as Snoek Pâté (smoked fish pâté) with apricot chutney and melba toast and Boerewors pap (South African sausage served on savoury corn based porridge) with chakalaka sauce (spicy tomato sauce).

Coinciding with the food festival, six prominent South African wineries from the Western Cape Winelands, namely Lammershoek Winery, Kaapzicht, Mooiplaas, Meerendal, Mont du Toit and Tulbagh Mountain Vineyard, will showcase some of their internationally awarded wines.

Restaurant 9501, the fine dining restaurant of ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., will open its doors to the public for a lunch buffet only for the five-day event. It is on 14/F, ELJ Communications Center, Eugenio Lopez Drive, QC. Call 4152272 or 4111434.

Snoek Pâté

300g smoked *snoek* (or a strong flavored smoked fish)
250 ml cream
125 ml sour cream
1 tbsp lemon juice
Pinch of ginger
10 ml tomato sauce-ketchup
10 ml castor sugar
Freshly ground black pepper

Remove all bones from the *snoek* and flake the fish.

Mix all ingredients in a food processor until blended. Adjust seasoning.

Mould into desired shape and serve with melba toast.

Apricot Chutney

4 granny smith apples, peeled diced
400 g diced dried apricots
150 g black currants
150 g white raisins
½ c white wine vinegar
1 c brown sugar
50 g peeled grated ginger
2 garlic cloves peeled chopped
5 ml cayenne pepper
1 clove
1 tsp ground cumin

Mix all ingredients together in a pot and cook on low heat until chutney consistency.

Pickled Fish

1 kg yellowtail pickled fish filleted
5 cloves garlic
2 large onions
1 c grape vinegar
½ c water
½ c golden brown sugar
8 peppercorns
4 cloves
4 allspice berries
2 bay leaves
1 tsp *masala* curry powder
1 tsp cumin
1 tsp turmeric
Coarse salt to taste
Oil as needed to fry fish

Roughly chop garlic and peel onions.

Firm up the fish by sprinkling with coarse salt for 20 minutes and rinse thoroughly afterwards.

Cut into 100-g portions and fry in hot oil until cooked through.

Place the rest of the ingredients in a large pot and cook until onions are still crisp.

Layer the cooked fish with the pickling sauce. Make sure that the top layer of fish has sauce as well.

Allow to cool and refrigerate—will last for a week.

Makes 8-10 portions

Koeksisters

Syrup:
4 c flour
1 c water
1 tsp cream of tartar
½ tsp tartaric acid
1 tsp grated orange rind
1 tsp ground ginger

Batter:
1 egg
2 c flour
6 tbsp butter
2 tsp baking powder
1 tsp salt

Sift flour baking powder. Cut in the butter.

Beat egg with milk and mix with the dry ingredients, do not over mix it. Refrigerate the dough at least for 1 hour.

Roll out the dough to about ½-cm thick, then cut 9 cm long, and 2.5 cm wide.

Cut each strip three ways, and plait them, pressing the ends together.

Preheat the oil, and deep fry the koeksisters.

Dry the excess oil from them, then place them into the chilled syrup.

Corn Bread

1 kg white bread flour
1 kg cake four
30g instant yeast
6 tsp salt
200 ml olive oil
100 ml white sugar
1.2 l luke warm water
1 medium-size cast iron pot
300 g whole corn kernels
300 g chopped rosemary

Mix all dry ingredients, corn and rosemary in large bread mixer.

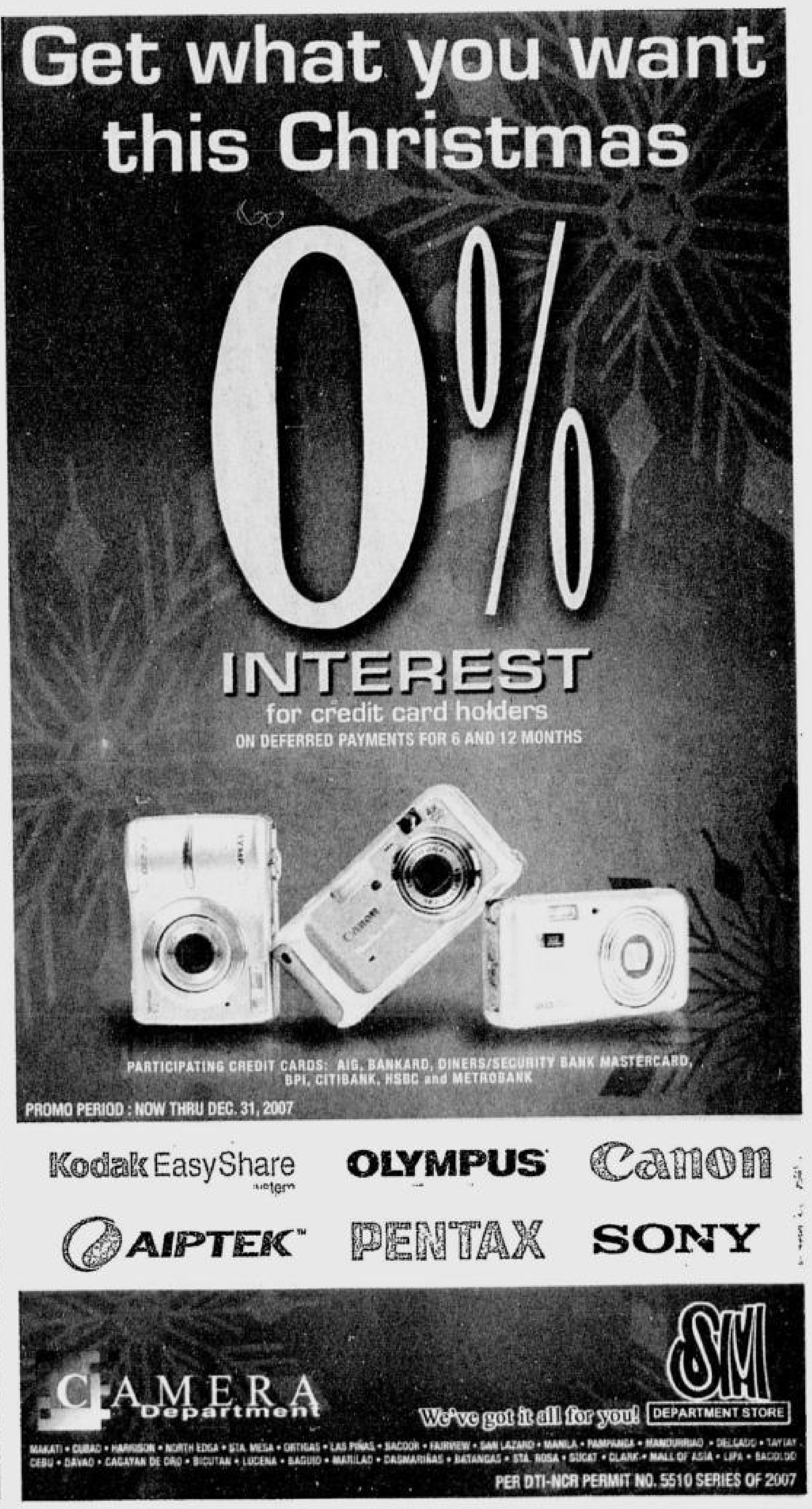
Add oil and switch mixer on. Add water and mix for seven minutes. Remove and place in lightly oil bowl.

Cover with a damp cloth and prove till double the size.

Shape bread and place into lightly oiled cast iron pot and prove again until double.

Bake in a moderate oven for about 25-30 minute, or until done.

Makes about 20 portions.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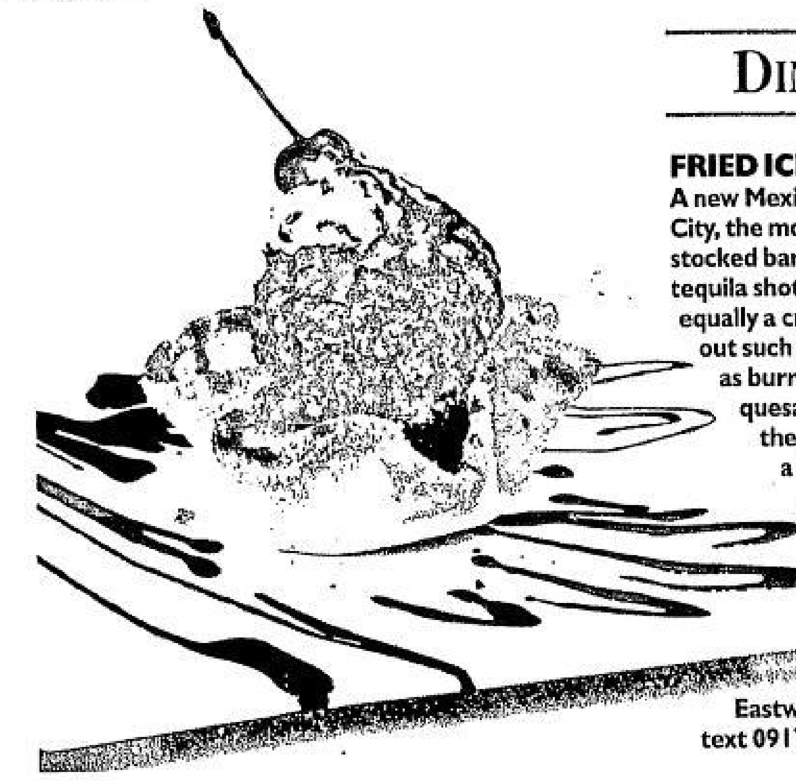
DINING OUT



FRIED ICE CREAM
A new Mexican cantina at Eastwood City, the modern Agave, has a well-stocked bar offering margaritas and tequila shots. But the kitchen is equally a crowd-drawer, churning out such popular Mexican treats as burritos, fajitas and quesadillas. Also on offer is the Agave Fried Ice Cream, a ball of vanilla ice cream covered with a nutty cinnamon crust and served on a pastry shell with whipped cream. Agave can be found at City Walk 1, Eastwood City (9126989 or text 0917-8EWCITY).

HEAVEN N' EGGS features Asian Big Plates, pastas, sandwiches, French toasts, wraps, pancakes, waffles, steaks, salads, soups and appetizers. The US Top Blade Steak with Eggs and the US Rib Fingers are some of the restaurant's bestsellers. Branches are located in CKB Building in Tomas Morato, QC, tel. 3762674; G/F Glorietta 4, tel. 8182792; Fuente Circle in Eastwood City, tel. 9121172; and Market! Market! tel. 8893791; and TriNoma, QC, tel. 9013608.

Hassle-free Thanksgiving

SPARE YOURSELF THE HASSLE OF PREPARING turkey for Thanksgiving by marking the event at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila. Roast Turkey with cranberry sauce, special stuffing and a side dish of sweet potatoes will grace the carving station of the hotel's buffet restaurant, Fab. Pay only the regular buffet price of P750+ per person. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily, Fab is at 4/L, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila (6337111) in Ortigas. It is also accessible from Robinsons Galleria Mall through the fourth level entrance.

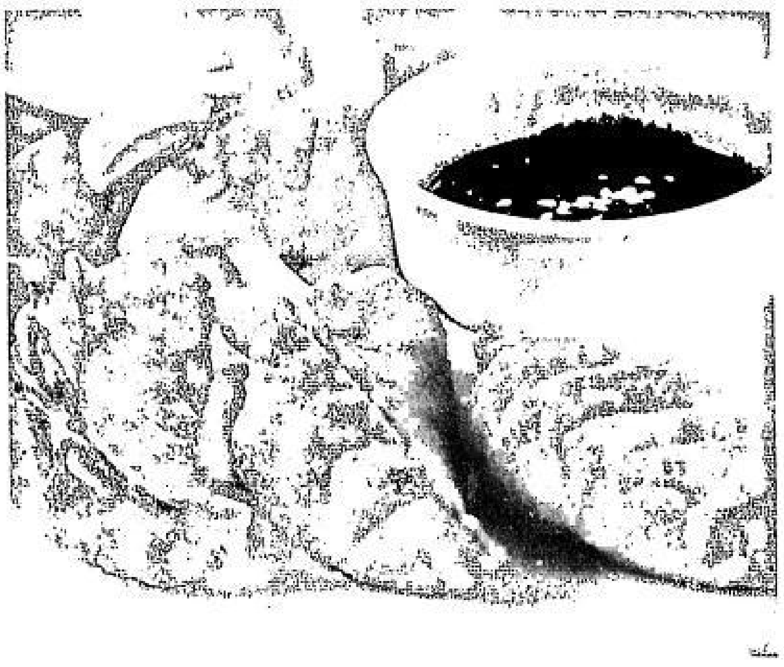
ILUSTRADO Restaurant & Wine Bar has opened at Westgate, Alabang. Rev. Bishop Antonieto Cabajog from the Diocese of Surigao blessed the new restaurant. The event was attended by Muntinlupa City Mayor Aldrin San Pedro, Filinvest Corporation's Mike Gotianun and Efren Gutierrez. The restaurant is open daily 10 a.m.-11 p.m. (7711276 or 7711782). Westgate Alabang is at Filicity, Alabang, Muntinlupa, 8503517 loc. 270, westgate@filinvest.com.

THE CAFÉ MEDITERRANEAN Restaurant has added the popular Gyro Plates to its menu. This month, the restaurant introduces vegetarian specials like Grilled Vegetable Salad, Toasted Panzanella, Roasted Tomato and Cannellini Bean Salad. New sandwiches include the Pan Bagnat with grilled eggplant, green beans Provencal, bell peppers, eggs, tapenade and a red wine vinaigrette in French Baguette. Also on the menu are Grilled Veggie Gyros Mixed Veggie Platter, Falafel, Baba Ghanoush, Tzatziki or Eggplant Parmigiana (8968625, www.thecafemediterranean.com).

THE MANOR at Camp John Hay features a thanksgiving dinner at Le Chef Restaurant (074-4240931 local 1058 or 1017 or 074-4240907) Nov. 22. Chef Billy King is preparing a menu that includes New York Waldorf Salad, Boston-style Seafood Chowder, Roast US Turkey and New Orleans Blackened Salmon. For dessert, there will be Traditional Pumpkin Pie. Dinner is priced at P750+.

MANILA PAVILION'S Peony Garden presents chef Lee specials "Best of the Best" this month. Chef Lee's signature dishes include Thai Shan Fried Chicken, Braised Crab Malaysian Style, Crispy Pork Belly with Makee Sauce, Fried Rice Taro with Long Beans, Kham Sha Prawn and the Deep-Fried Prawn Breaded with Noodles and Sauteed Sliced Beef with Fresh Pineapple. Call 5261212.

MEZZALUNA, a signature restaurant of Serendra in Bonifacio Global City provides a fresh approach to pasta with entrees like stracci with braised Wagyu beef cheek and olive ragu, gremolata. Knowing the Filipinos' sweet tooth, Miguel's Mezzaluna menu includes such items as toffee pudding with butterscotch sauce served with vanilla bean ice cream. It is similar to the popular Food for the Gods but with the texture of a moist and finely made carrot cake. It is topped with butterscotch and Mezzaluna's creamy homemade ice cream.



HULA-HULA Seafood and Barbecue House (Shangri-La Street Scape, Shangri-La Plaza Mall, tel. 9103218; Westgate, Filinvest City, tel. 7712291/2289) features seafood specials. Must-try dishes are the Javanese Fried Chicken Special, Charlie's Chicken Gyoza, Grilled Hawaiian Striploin Steak, Balinese Luau, among others.

CLAWDADDY Crabhouse and American Grill opens another branch at Bonifacio High Street. One of the restaurant's favorites is Clawdaddy's Baby Back Ribs. Other dishes include Clawdaddy's King and Queen Sampler, all-American barbecue feast, Clawdaddy Family Seafood Feast, Lemon Cream Mussels, Riverboat Shrimps, among others, tel. 6365679 or 8564785.

Festival ushers in French soiree

TO USHER IN THE GRAND Soirée Beaujolais that will be held at Sofitel Philippine Plaza's Harbor Garden Tent on Nov. 20, Spiral at Sofitel Manila will be holding its own Beaujolais Nouveau on Nov. 17 and 18.

Spiral will be featuring the cuisine of the Loire Valley, known as "Garden of France," with dishes inspired from the mild climate and fertile farmlands of the region. The cuisine uses fresh and high-quality fruits, vegetables, Epicurean cheeses and other special ingredients flown in from France.

The specialties of Loire Valley include Grilled Pike with Walnuts, Beuchelle (creamed kidney and sweetbreads), Roasted Veal loin with herb crust and creamy mushroom sauce and other favorites such as Prime Rib of Beef and Spit Roasted Pamora free range chicken, Coq au vin Rouge.

For something really special, ask the chefs at the Mediterranean kitchen to cook up the unique offerings during this festival: Beef Medallion with sautéed mushrooms and foie gras, homemade pasta with fresh eel stew and fresh potato gnocchi with truffle butter.

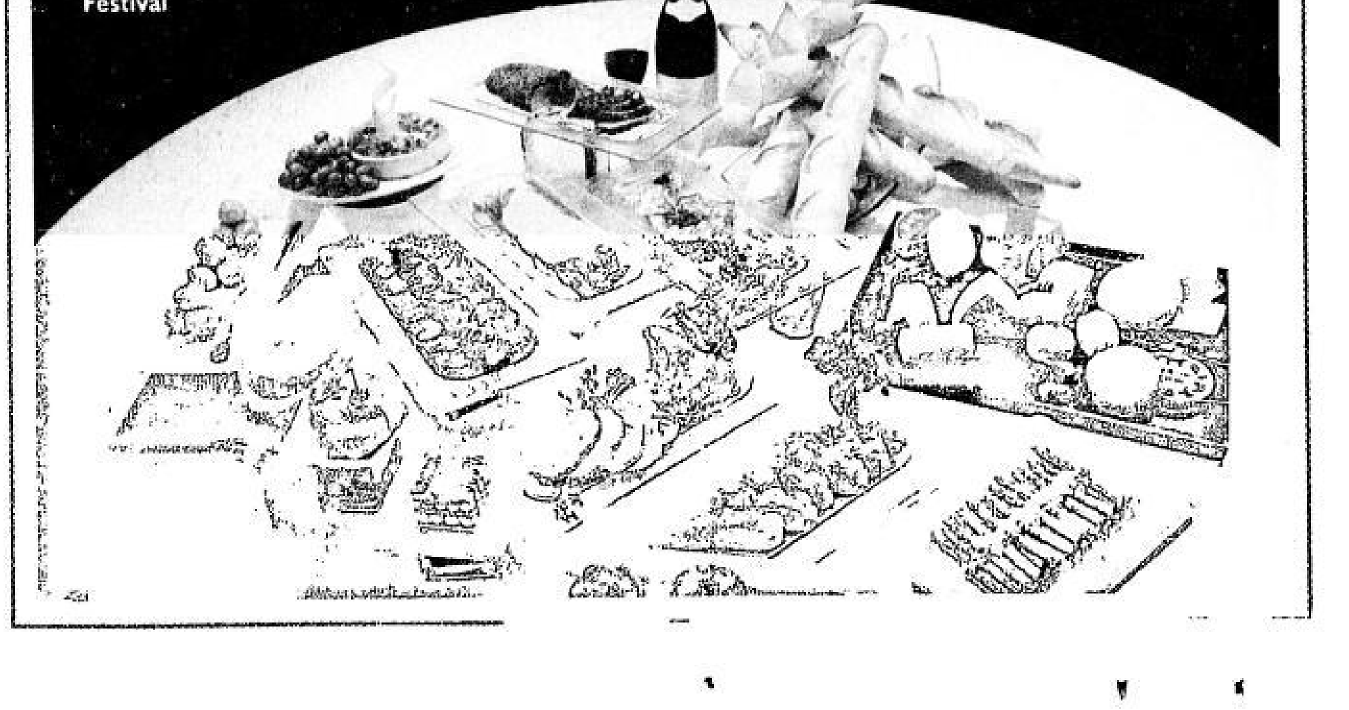
A special Beaujolais wine selection will be available at 15-percent discounted price. Guests will also have a choice of champagne and sparkling wines included with the buffet brunch Nov. 18.

One of the most-awaited events of the expatriate community, the Soirée Beaujolais Festival on Nov. 20 at the Harbor Garden Tent will feature a grand assortment of French cheeses, charcuterie and delicacies flown in from France. The much-anticipated show will be hosted by Johnny Litton and Tessa Prieto-Valdes, with musical performances from The Bloomfields, various dance numbers, and a gala show by Jewelmer. Tickets are at P2,500.

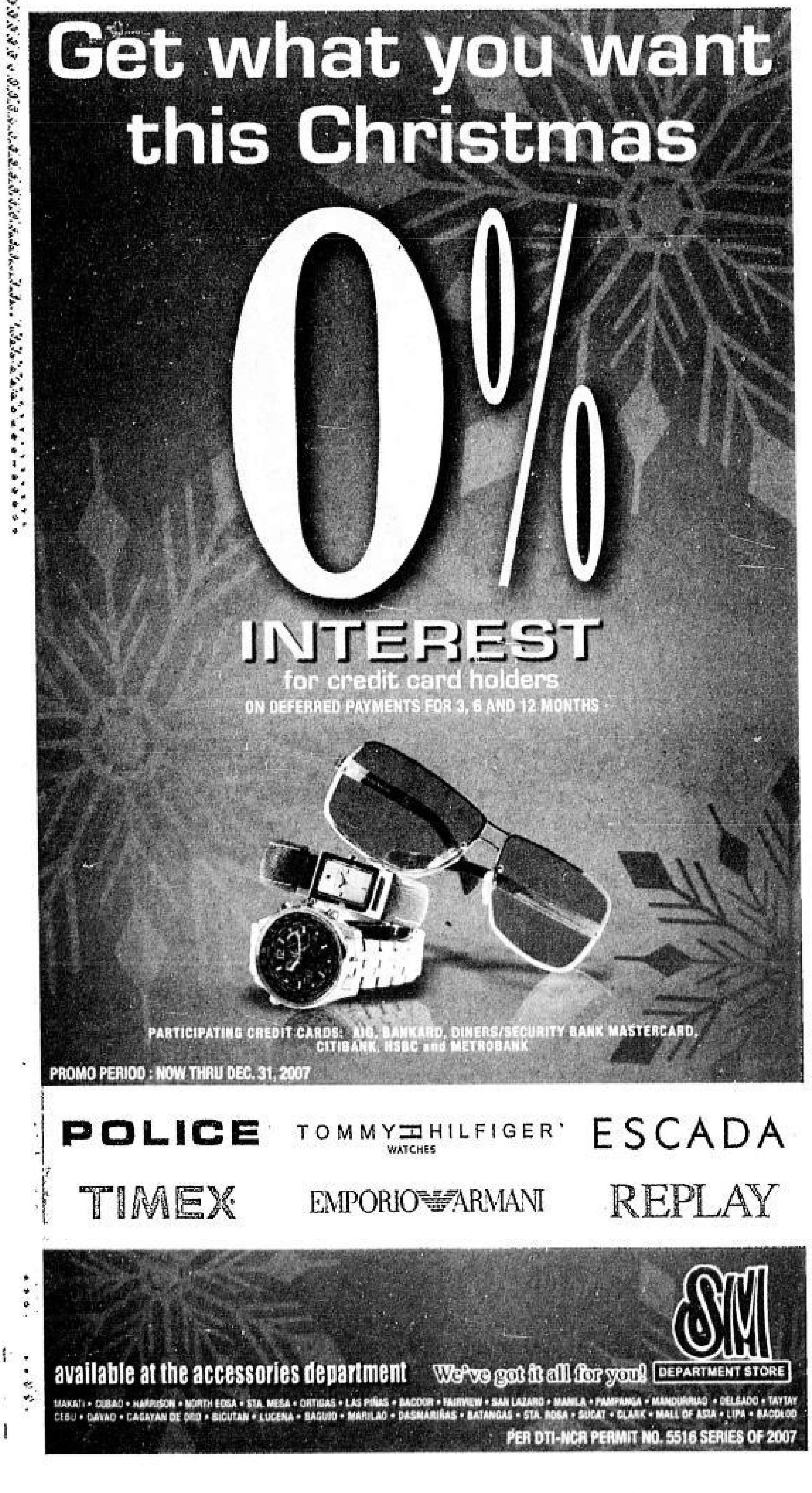
Spiral dining patrons will get a chance to win gifts from Guerlain, L'Oreal Professionnel, Beaujolais Nouveau wines from Le Cellier at the special dinner on Nov. 17 and the brunch on Nov. 18. Spiral receptionists will be dressed in gowns by Puey Quiñones, accessories by Arnel Papa and hair by L'Oreal Professionnel.

Call 8326988 or 5515555 local 1229 or 1086 or e-mail fbreservations@sofitelmanila.com. For more info on Soirée Beaujolais Festival, call 8139005 or e-mail le_club@globelines.com.ph.

GRILLED Pike with Walnuts



SOIRÉE Beaujolais Festival



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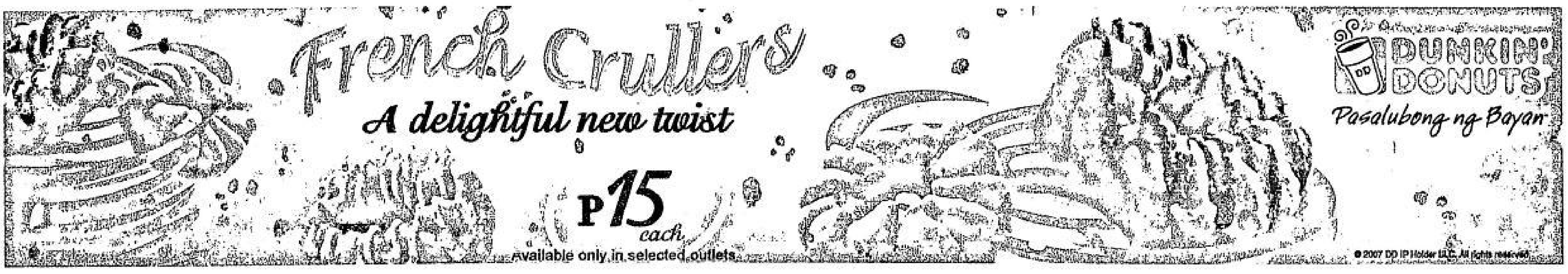

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One-stop-shop for foreign filmmakers

NANCY Castiglione and Luis Alandy in "Signos"

By Marinel R. Cruz

THE LOCAL INDEPENDENT MOVIE SCENE continues to thrive and flourish.

Low-budget Pinoy films keep winning awards and getting rave reviews abroad; filmmakers earn grants from foreign-based financiers; and production outfits are always on the lookout for fresh Filipino talents through casting calls.

The government wants to help the movement and the mainstream industry as well by promoting the Philippines as an attractive film site. Last week, Malacañang issued a presidential executive order for the creation of the Philippine Film Export Services Office.

According to the newly signed Executive Order 674, the Export Services Group (ESG) "shall facilitate the institutionalization of a one-stop-shop system for foreign film and television productions."

Direct link

Aside from pitching the Philippines as a location site, the ESG will provide a direct link between foreign film producers and local artists, technical crew and facilities.

The agency is under the "administrative and technical supervision" of the Film Development Council, headed by Jacky Atienza. It shall be composed of an executive director and representatives from the departments of Tourism, Trade and Industry, Interior and Local Government, National Defense, the bureaus of Customs, Internal Revenue, Immigration, as well as from the Cinema Evaluation Board, Film Academy of the Philippines and the private sector, specifically from the movie and TV industries.

The ESG's chair is film producer Digna Santiago. Its first task was to join President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at the recent business forum in India, where a Bollywood film producer has

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1 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
2 (DOLBY) THE GAME PLAN
3 (DOLBY) THE NANNY DIARIES
4 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) SUPERBAD

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 BEOWULF
2 SUPER BAD
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7268160
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SUPER BAD
5

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433994
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWULF
4 UNREST

SM THEATRES
Tel. No. (041) 600-3005
1 BALLS OF FURY
2 SUPER BAD
3 ONE MORE CHANCE

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3
4

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOB) THE NANNY DAIRIES
2 (SDDS) BEOWULF
3 (DTS) LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 (GOLD DTS) ONE MORE CHANCE
5 (GOLD DOLBY) BOOGEYMAN - 2
6 (GOLD SDDS) GAME PLAN
7 (GOLD DOLBY) BEOWULF
8 BALLS OF FURY
9 ONE MORE CHANCE
10 SUPER BAD

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) SUPER BAD
2 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334220
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 BEOWULF

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 RESIDENT EVIL - 3
3 LUST CAUTION
4

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 LUST CAUTION

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 BEOWULF
2 SUPER BAD

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 HALLOWEEN
4 BEOWULF

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 STURDUST

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City)
tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) SUPER BAD
2 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
3 (DOLBY) THE NANNY DAIRIES
4 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) BEOWULF
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPER BAD
3 (DOLBY) HALLOWEEN

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 (DOLBY) SUPER BAD
4 (DTS) HALLOWEEN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 (DOLBY) UNREST

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SUPER BAD
2 ONE MORE CHANCE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 RENDITION
2 RESIDENT EVIL

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) RESIDENT EVIL
2 PLEASE CALL
3 PLEASE CALL
4 (DTS) RENDITION

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) ONE MORE CHANCE
2 PLEASE CALL
3 (DTS) BEOWULF
4 WEDDING DAZE
5 SUPER BAD

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 SUPER BAD
2 HIGHLANDER
3 KUNG FU FIGHTER
4 ONE MORE CHANCE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2

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ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE

MOVIEWORLD

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MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA
1 BEOWULF • THX
2 BEOWULF
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 SUPERBAD
7 GAME PLAN
8 indieSine: PAIN THINGS
9 WE OWN the NIGHT
10 LIONS for LAMBS

ERMITA
1 BEOWULF
2 WE OWN the NIGHT
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 SUPERBAD
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 BOOGEYMAN 2
7 30 DAYS of NIGHT

Midtown
1 BEOWULF
2 WE OWN the NIGHT
3 THE NANNY DIARIES

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Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193, 682-8199
1 SUPERBAD
2 BEOWULF
3 ONE MORECHANCE
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 THE NANNY DIARIES
6 GAME PLAN
7 WE OWN the NIGHT
8 30 DAYS of NIGHT
LIONS for IAMBS

NOVALICHES
[illegible]
1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 SUPERBAD

PIONEER
Ticket Price: P100 / P110 [illegible]
1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 SUPERBAD
4 THE NANY DIARIES

STA. ROSA
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (049) 837-0907
1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 SUPERBAD
4 GHOST SON

LIPA
Ticket Price: (043) 757-3664
P90 (043) 312-5870
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 HALLOWEEN
3 SUPERBAD
4 HIGHLANDER
KUNG FU FIGHTER

DASMARIÑAS
Ticket Price: P80 / P90 (046) 416-4332
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 SUPERBAD
4 BALLS of FURY

IMUS
Ticket Price: P100 (046) 875-3838
(046) 471-8188
1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 SUPERBAD
4 UNREST
GHOST SON

ANGELES
Ticket Price: P90 / P95 (045) 892-2348
1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 UNREST / SUPERBAD
4 RENDITION / BALLS of FURY

TARLAC
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 WE OWN the NIGHT
3 RENDITION /
HIGHLANDER

STARMILLS
[illegible] (046) 875-[illegible]
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 SUPERBAD
3 UNREST / RENDITION
4 BALLS of FURY
5 BEOWULF
6 30 DAYS of NIGHT

BACOLOD
Ticket Price: P70 (034) 441-0459
1 BEOWULF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
4 HALLOWEEN
5 SUPERBAD
6 indieSine: SINUNGALING na BUWAN

ILOILO
Ticket Price: P70.50 / P80.50 (033) 336-8070
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWULF
3 SUPERBAD
4 THE SEEKER: Dark is Rising
5 HALLOWEEN
6 GHOST SON

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by Ed Lejano

3 loves, 3 broken hearts. This offbeat "dramedy" begins when their affairs abruptly end. A weather reporter gets dumped by her older, married lover, and turns to alcohol and horoscopes for escape. A radio dubber is left by his lover for another woman & becomes obsessed with his idol, a 70's pop diva. With its intricate plot, their separate stories converge during the performance of a play-within-a-film & climaxes with unexpected twists linking one another in surprising ways

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6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35
GP

CINEMA 2: BOOGEYMAN 2
11:00 , 1:15 , 3:35
5:55 , 8:15 ,10:35
R-13

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PROMENADE
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CINEMA 3: SUPERBAD
11:35 , 2:10 , 4:45
7:20 , 10:00
R-18

CINEMA 4: NANNY DIARIES
11:00 , 1:20 , 3:40
6:00 , 8:20 , 10:35
GP

CINEMA 5: BEOWULF
10:45 , 1:40 , 4:30
7:20 , 10:10
PG-13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

November 16,17,23 & 24 2007	" Into the Woods " musical	8:00 PM
November 15 , 2007	Retrospect	8:00 PM
November 20 , 2007	Angelos	8:00 PM
November 22 , 2007	Body Builders	8:00 PM

TEATRINO
PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Nov. 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29 , 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

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ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
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NANNY DIARIES G	LIONS FOR LAMBS PG13	SUPER BAD R18
ONE MORE CHANCE	BOOGEYMAN 2	BEOWULF PG13

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To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text **eastwood** and send to **2948** for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1	SUPERBAD	1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:05	R-18
2	BEOWULF	12:40, 3:10, 5:50, 8:30, 11:05	PG-13
3	THE NANNY DIARIES	1:30, 3:55, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00	G
4	ONE MORE CHANCE	3:10, 5:50, 8:30,11:10	PG-13

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She's got killer grades and a killer resumé.
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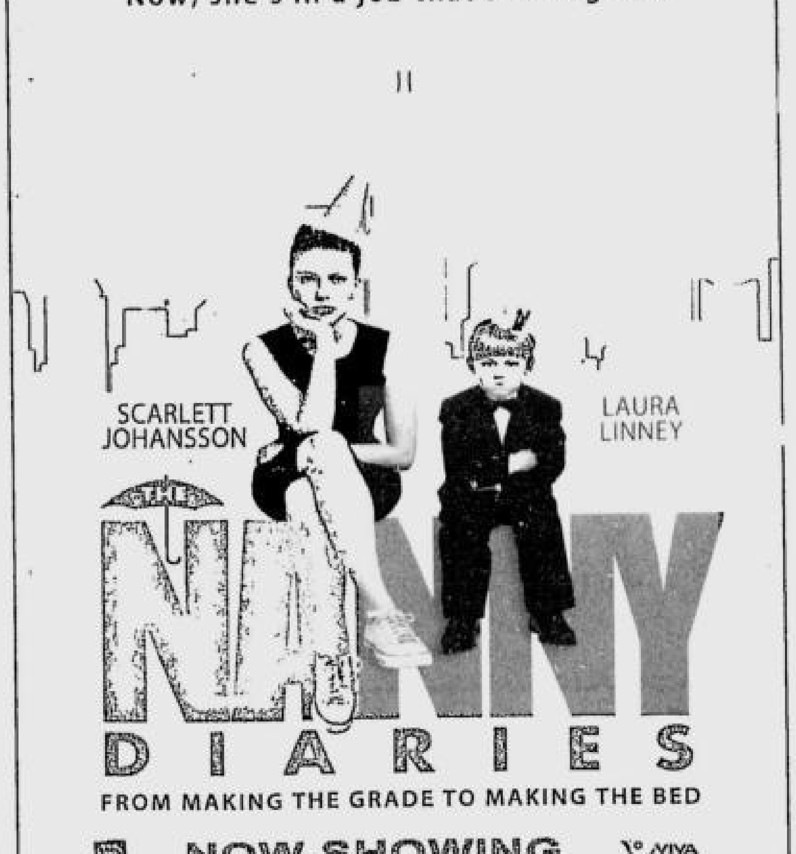

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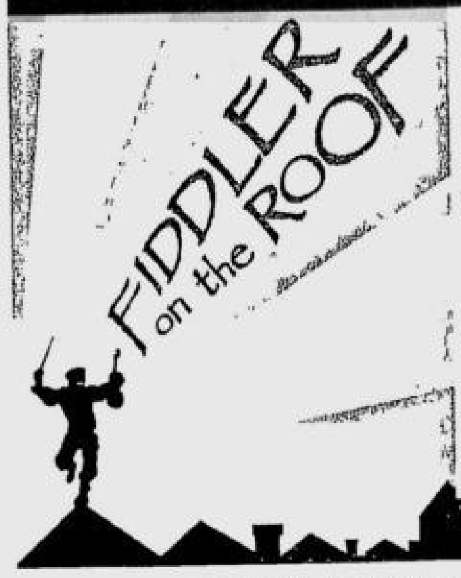
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BEOWULF
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ONE MORE CHANCE

BOOGEYMAN 2
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30

SUPERBAD
1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30

GAMEPLAN
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30

NANNY DIARIES
12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30

DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

LIONS FOR LAMBS
12:00 / 2:15 / 4:30 / 6:45 / 9:00

30 DAYS OF NIGHT

BEOWULF
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ARANETA COLISEUM
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AI AI AI ... D Greatest Performance Of My Life
Nov. 16, Friday 8pm

PBA GAMES
Nov. 18, Sunday
4:30 pm GINEBRA vs MAGNOLIA 6:50 pm TALK N TEXT vs COCA COLA

AKON - LIVE IN MANILA
Nov. 29, Thursday 8pm

TEN: PIOLO PASCUAL LIVE AT THE ARANETA
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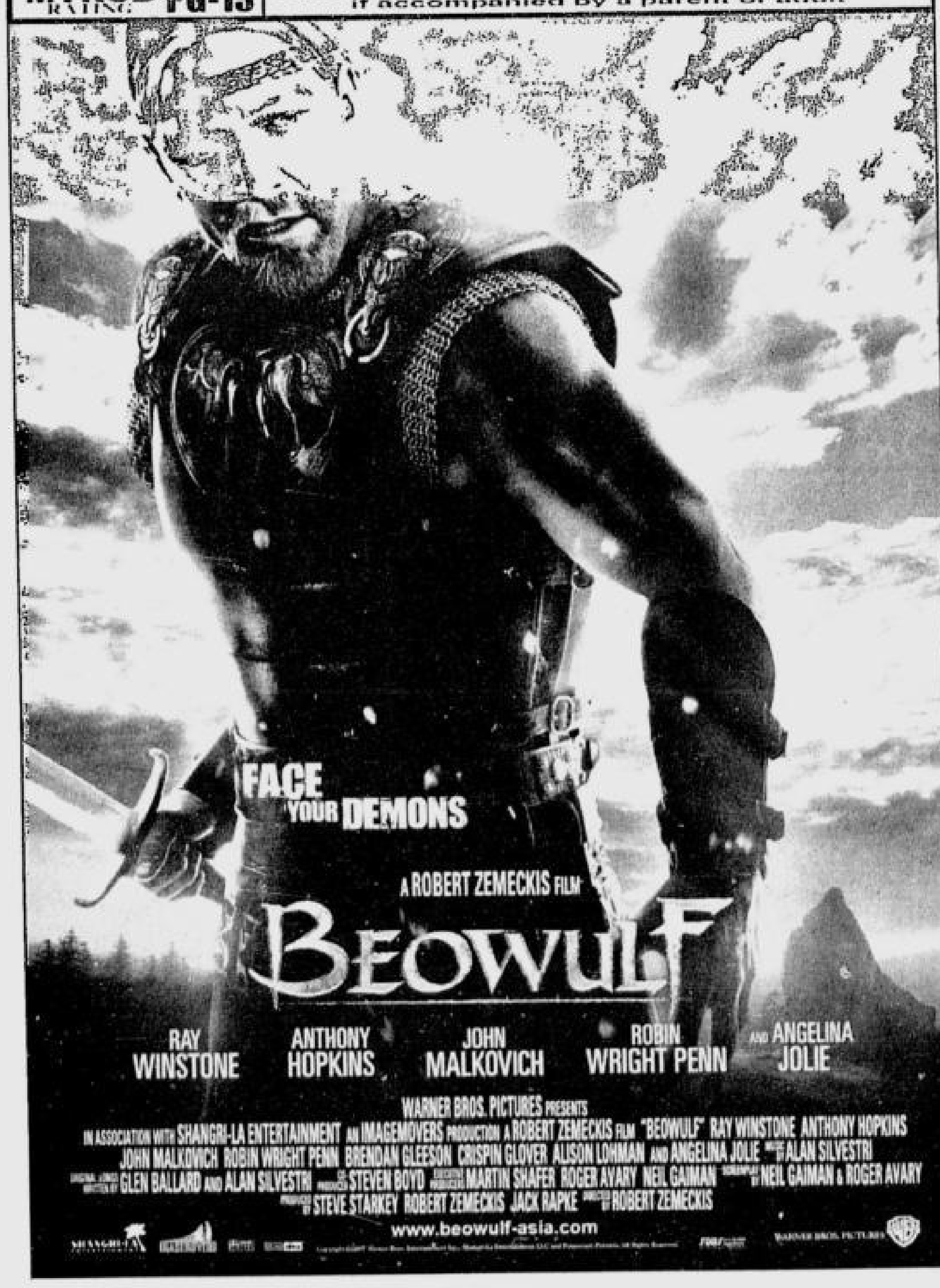
MTRCB RATING **PG-13** Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult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METRO MANILA

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DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250
11:00 AM • 5:30 PM
1 BEOWOLF
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 LIONS FOR LAMBS
4 BALLS OF FURY
5 THE NANNY DIARIES
6 BOOGEYMAN 2
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CINEMA 1
BEOWOLF
CINEMA 2
THE NANNY DIARIES
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SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 RESERVED
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 BEOWOLF
5 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
6 THE GAMEPLAN
7 THE NANNY DIARIES
8 ONE MORE CHANCE
9 BALLS OF FURY
10 BOOGEYMAN 2
11 BEOWOLF
12 HIDE & SEEK

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 BEOWOLF
2 THE GAMEPLAN
3 BEOWOLF
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 LIONS FOR LAMBS
6 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 BALLS OF FURY
9 HIDE & SEEK
10 ONE MORE CHANCE
11 THE NANNY DIARIES
12 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 GHOST SON
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 STARDUST
4 HIDE & SEEK
5 THE GAME PLAN
6 BOOGEYMAN 2
7 BEOWOLF
8 ONE MORE CHANCE
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 WE OWN THE NIGHT
11 LIONS FOR LAMBS
12 THE NANNY DIARIES

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 BEOWOLF
2 THE NANNY DIARIES
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 HIDE & SEEK
6 WE OWN THE NIGHT
7 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
8 BALLS OF FURY
9 LIONS FOR LAMBS
10 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISNG

SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975
1 THE NANNY DIARIES
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BEOWOLF
4 THE GAMEPLAN

SM SOUTHMALL 806-6888
1 BEOWOLF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BOOGEYMAN 2
5 THE NANNY DIARIES
6 THE GAME PLAN
7 WE OWN THE NIGHT
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 LIONS FOR LAMBS

SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055
1 BEOWOLF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 THE GAME PLAN

SM CITY MANILA 523-9240
1 BEOWOLF
2 WE OWN THE NIGHT
3 THE NANNY DIARIES
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 THE GAME PLAN
6 RESERVED
7 BOOGEYMAN 2
8 HIDE & SEEK
9 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
10 GHOST SON
11 BALLS OF FURY
12 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM VALENZUELA 293-3917
1 THE GAME PLAN
2 BEOWOLF
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 WE OWN THE NIGHT

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 BEOWOLF
2 BOOGEYMAN 2
3 THE GAME PLAN
4 THE NANNY DIARIES
5 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

THIS FAIRYTALE PRINCESS IS ABOUT TO MEET A REAL PRINCE CHARMING
Walt Disney
ENCHANTED
OPENS NOVEMBER 21

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invite you to come and be a part of

A TOUCH OF ENCHANTMENT

SM MALL OF ASIA November 16 (Friday) at North Arcade (facing Centerstage)

November 17 (Saturday) at Event Center (SM City North EDSA)

MEGAMALL November 18 (Sunday) at Cinema lobby (3F Bldg. A)

A magical day full of fun and surprises such as maze, picture-taking, dating game, and ceramic squirrel painting to celebrate the showing of Walt Disney Pictures' ENCHANTED

Activity starts at 1:00 p.m.
Please see event posters and banners for more details.

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LUZON

SM CITY BACOOR (046)417-3868
1 THE NANNY DIARIES
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 BEOWOLF
4 ONE MORE CHANCE
5 GHOST SON
6 ONE MORE CHANCE
7 HIDE & SEEK
8 UNREST

SM CITY MARILAO (044)9332013-17
1 THE GAME PLAN
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HIDE AND SEEK
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO (046)474-3160
1 BEOWOLF
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 APAT DAPAT, DAPAT APAT
4 GHOST SON

SM CITY DASMARINAS (046)4323201-04
1 BEOWOLF
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 30 DAYS OF NIGHT

SM CITY BATANGAS 885-6401-04
1 KUNG FU FIGHTER
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 HIGHLANDER V
4 RETRIBUTION

SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 HIGHLANDER V

SM CITY PAMPANGA (045)9637681-85
1 BEOWOLF
2 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 HIDE & SEEK
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 ONE MORE CHANCE

SM CITY STA. ROSA (049)5340811
1 HIDE & SEEK
2 MR. WOODCOCK
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 BEOWOLF

SM CITY LUCENA (042)7108977-80
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 KUNG FU FIGHTER
3 BEOWOLF
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY BAGUIO (074)6197838-39
1 DECEMBER BOYS
2 ONE MORE CHANCE
3 BALLS OF FURY
4 BEOWOLF

SM CITY CLARK (045)625-5844-45
1 BEOWOLF
2 HIGHLANDER V
3 30 DAYS OF NIGHT
4 BALLS OF FURY
5 ONE MORE CHANCE
6 HIDE & SEEK

SM CITY TAYTAY 286-2502 to 04
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWOLF
3 THE GAME PLAN

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY DAVAO (082)2976998
1 BEOWOLF
2 STARDUST
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 KUNG FU FIGHTER
5 HAIRSPRAY
6 WE OWN THE NIGHT

SM CITY CAGAYAN (088)859-2884
1 WE OWN THE NIGHT
2 BALLS OF FURY
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 RESIDENT EVIL 3

SM CITY ILOILO (033)3209422
1 BALLS OF FURY
2 STARDUST
3 ONE MORE CHANCE
4 RENDITION
5 BEOWOLF
6 HIGHLANDER V
7 RESERVED
8 RESERVED

SM CITY CEBU (032)231-3876
1 STARDUST
2 BEOWOLF
3 WE OWN THE NIGHT
4 BALLS OF FURY
5 HIGHLANDER V
6 HALLOWEEN
7 ONE MORE CHANCE
8 BEOWOLF

SM CITY BACOLOD (034) 708 1010
1 ONE MORE CHANCE
2 BEOWOLF
3 UNREST
4 THE SEEKER: THE DARK IS RISING

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

One-stop-shop…

From page F1

committed to shoot a film in the Philippines in December.

The ESG will also serve at the country's link to the Asian Film Commission Network (AFCNet), an association that aims to attract film productions to come to Asia. The ESG represented the country at the AFCNet launch in Pusan, South Korea in October.

'Signos'

Alfred Aloysius Adlawan's "Signos" bagged the Best Foreign Film Award in the 1st Lone Star International Film Festival held in Fort Worth, Texas from Nov. 7 to 11.

This is the first festival that "Signos" joined after its local release in August. The horror-drama film that tackles estrangement and going back to one's roots features Luis Alandy, Irma Adlawan, Ricky Davao, Nancy Castiglione and Chx Alcala.

"We didn't expect to win any award because the event wasn't a horror-fest," Adlawan told INQUIRER Entertainment on Monday.

Chicago film festival

Meanwhile, the 4th Chicago Filipino American Film Festival was held from Nov. 9 to 11 at the Chopin Theater. It featured a total of 10 films—full-length features, music videos and documentaries, according to its website http://www.cfaff.org.

The Chicago Filipino American Film Festival was created in 2003 by the Filipino American Network (FAN). It aims to provide an opportunity for Filipino and Filipino-American directors, writers and actors in Chicago to showcase their works.

DIGNA Santiago

'Tirador (Slingshot)'

Brillante Mendoza's "Tirador" ("Slingshot") continues to get rave reviews from influential industry figures, most recently from Toronto International Film Festival programmer Cameron Bailey, who said the movie shows the director's "rapidly maturing abilities with digital cinema."

"Tirador," featuring Jiro Manio, Kristoffer King, Coco Martin, Nathan Lopez and Jaclyn Jose, had its world premiere at the Toronto IFF in September.

"This is a fiction film, but Mendoza's impressive skill is to impose a calculated narrative onto Manila's constant unpredictability, shaping its ground-level chaos into art," Bailey said in his essay.

'Independencia'

Raya Martin ("Autohystoria") made history as the only Filipino on this season's list of 28 winners to win a Hubert Balls Fund (HBF) from the International Film Festival of Rotterdam (IFFR).

Martin's film "Independencia," set against a backdrop of the American occupation of the Philippines in the early 20th century, won in the Script Development Category of the HBF, according to a statement from the IFFR.

Martin received his first IFFR grant or the Prince Claus Fund, amounting to 15,000 euros (P960,000), for his film "Independencia" as part of the 46 CineMart Projects 2007. The film was even chosen as the Best CineMart Project of 2007.

Arkeofilms

Arkeofilms, the independent film production company behind Mario Cornejo's and Moster Jimenez's "Big Time," is looking for actors for a short film adaptation of scriptwriter Butch Dalisay's story.

Auditions are being held from Nov. 10 to Dec. 1 for the roles of Sammy, a street-smart boy; Felipe, the smooth-talking single father; Connie, the strong-willed and poised school principal; Mr. Manalo, the rich businessman; and Julie, a young nurse grief-stricken by the loss of a beloved patient.

Auditions are on weekends from 1 to 6 p.m. at Unit 415 CPT Condominium, Estacion St. Makati City. Arkeofilms also produced the award-winning short films, "Mansyon" and "Putot." Send questions to creative@arkeofilms.com.

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AFTER "THE GRUDGE" & "THE MESSENGERS"
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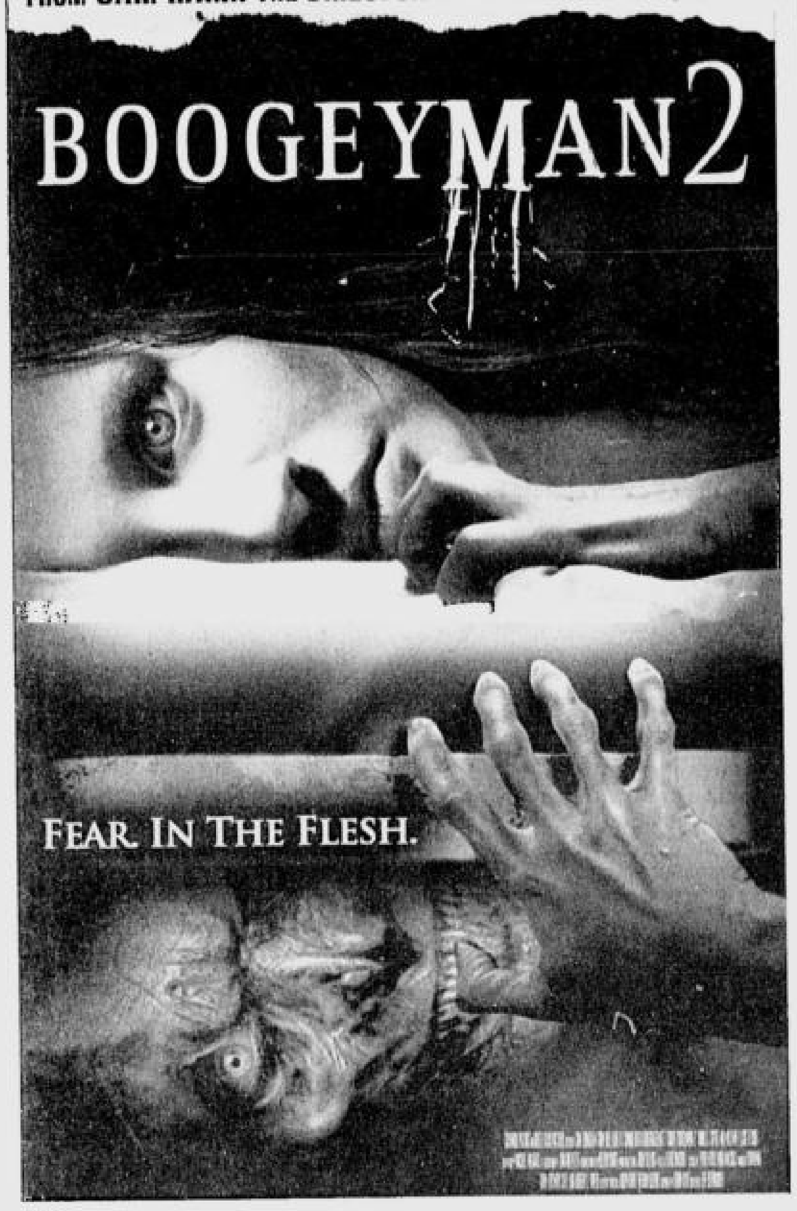
FROM SAM RAIMI THE DIRECTOR OF "SPIDERMAN 1,2&3"


BOOGEYMAN2
FEAR IN THE FLESH.

SHANG CINEPLEX

① BEOWULF
MTRCB PG-13
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

② THE GAME PLAN
MTRCB GP
2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30

③ THE NANNY DIARIES
MTRCB GP 12:20, 2:45
5:10, 7:35, 10:00

④ ONE MORE CHANCE
(SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING)
2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
SUPER BAD (R-18)
2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

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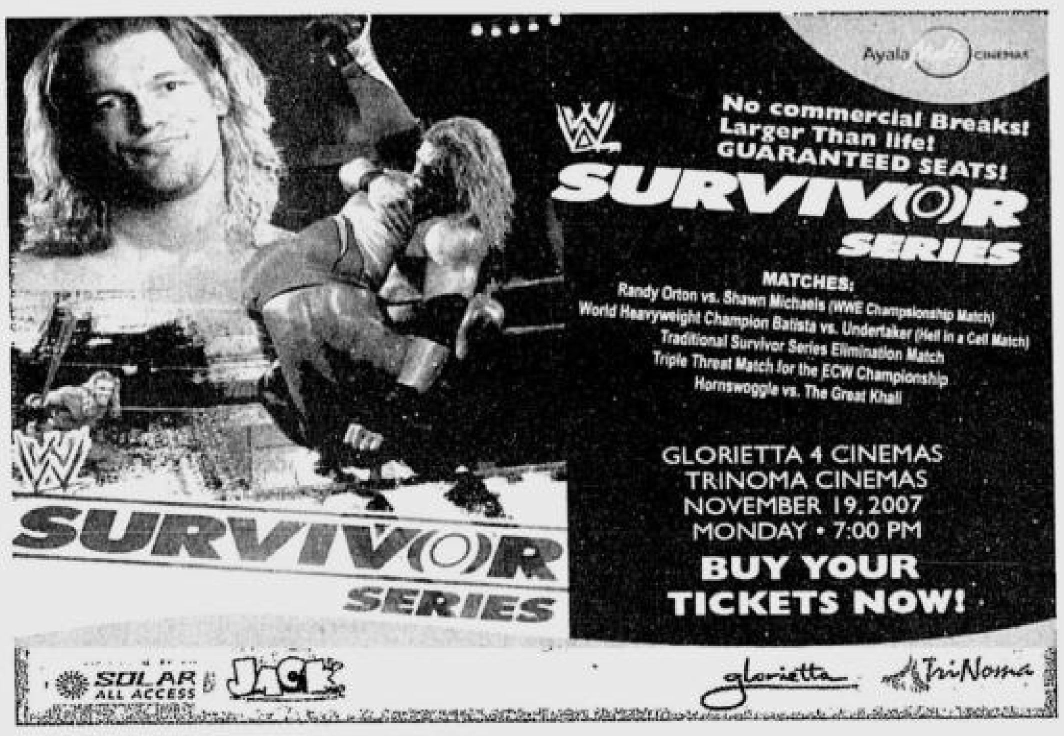
Shangri-La Plaza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AT THE CINEMAS

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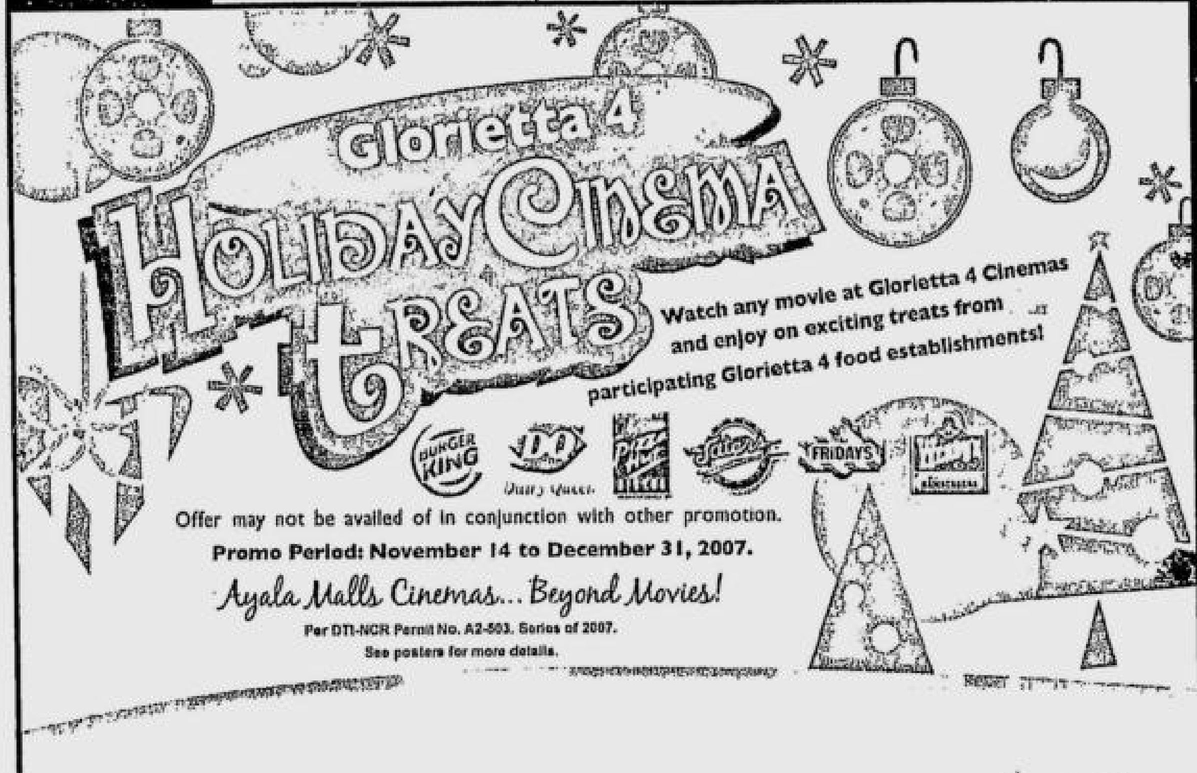
GLORIETTA 1	1 BOOGEYMAN 2	2 BEOWULF	3 THE NANNY DIARIES	4 ONE MORE CHANCE
GLORIETTA 4	1 THE NANNY DIARIES	2 BEOWULF	3 THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 THE GAME PLAN	5 SUPER BAD	6 THE GAME PLAN	7 BOOGEYMAN 2
GREENBELT 1	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 BEOWULF		
GREENBELT 3	1 THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 LIONS FOR LAMBS GUARANTEED SEATS	4 SUPER BAD GUARANTEED SEATS	5 THE NANNY DIARIES GUARANTEED SEATS	
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX BEOWULF	2 THE NANNY DIARIES		
	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 SUPER BAD	5 BEOWULF	
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 BEOWULF	2 SUPER BAD	3 ONE MORE CHANCE	4 BALLS OF FURY
MARKET! MARKET!	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 THE NANNY DIARIES		
	3 SUPER BAD	4 BEOWULF	5 BOOGEYMAN 2	
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	1 ONE MORE CHANCE	2 BOOGEYMAN 2	3 LIONS FOR LAMBS / BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE NANNY DIARIES GUARANTEED SEATS
	5 THE GAME PLAN	6 SUPER BAD	7 THX BEOWULF GUARANTEED SEATS	

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000
Ayala Malls

glorietta	Christmas Concert Series feat. KUH LEDESMA November 11; 6pm; Activity Center
GREENBELT	Bossa Nova Christmas November 16 & 23; Greenbelt 3 Park
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Pre-Christmas 10 to 10 Sale! November 16 to 18 and 23 to 25
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Monterey and Virginia Foods Event November 11; 3pm to 7pm; Activity Center
MARKET! MARKET!	Jobstreet Job Fair November 14 to 15, Activity Center
Greenbelt Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids August - December 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710 or visit www.repertory-philippines.com
Ayala MUSEUM	2007 Shell National Students Art Exhibition - 100 Best Entries & Winners November 8 to 18, 2007; Ground Floor For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Rhythm Academy: Kyla with Tiples De Sto. Domingo November 17; 7pm; TriNoma Park Rhythm Academy: Sam Concepcion with the Augustinian Larks December 9; 6pm; Activity Center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See posters for more details.

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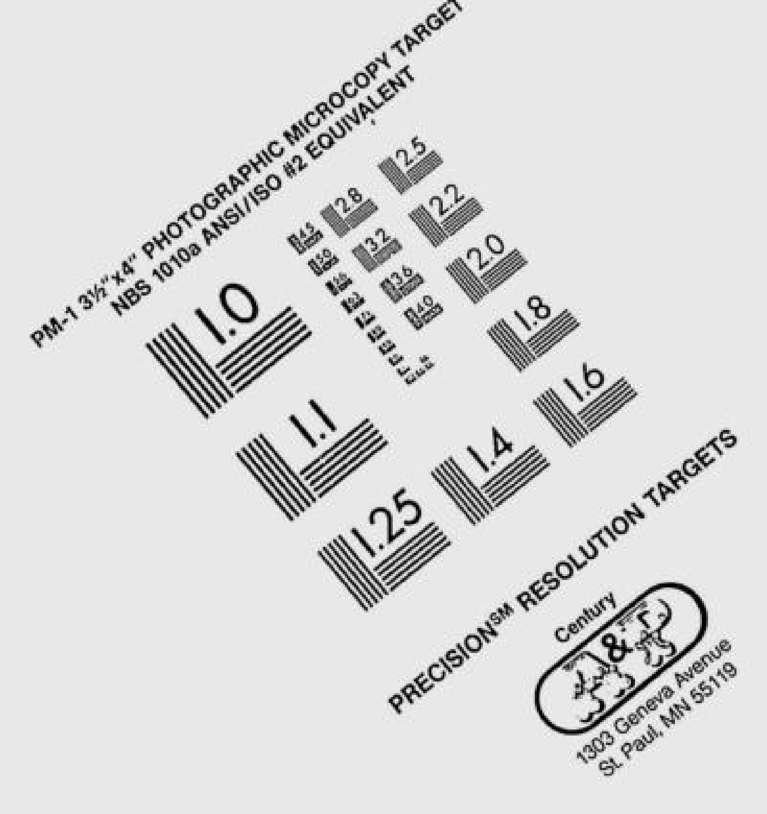
At theTriNoma Park Activity Center, 6pm
November 4: Kuh Ledesma with The UP Jazz Ensemble

At the TriNoma Park (4th Level) at 7:00 pm
November 10: Basil Valdez with The UP Singing Ambassadors
November 17: Kyla with Tiples De Sto. Domingo

Concierge Hotline: 901-3000; Text 'Ayala Malls' to 2948

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma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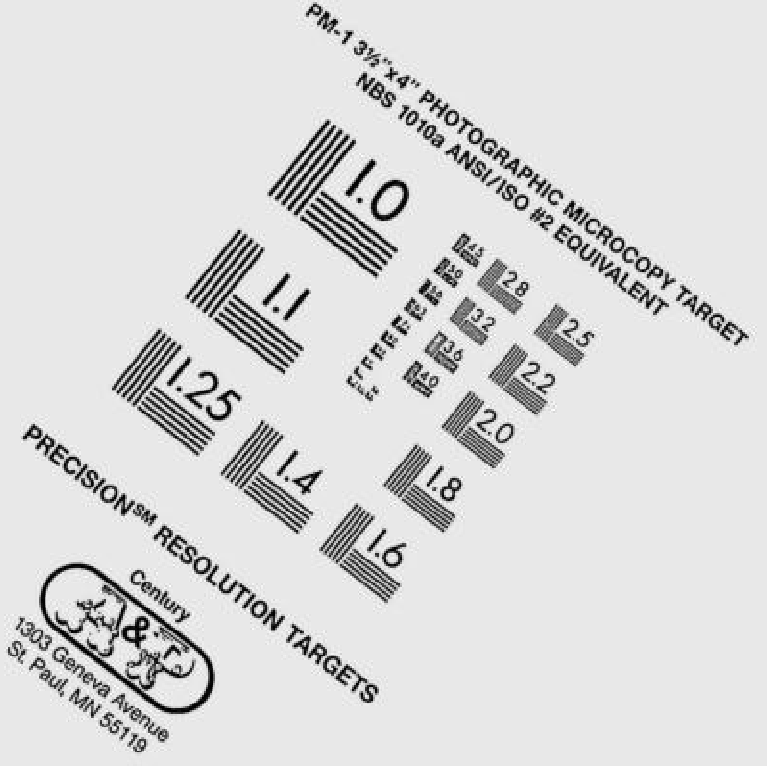
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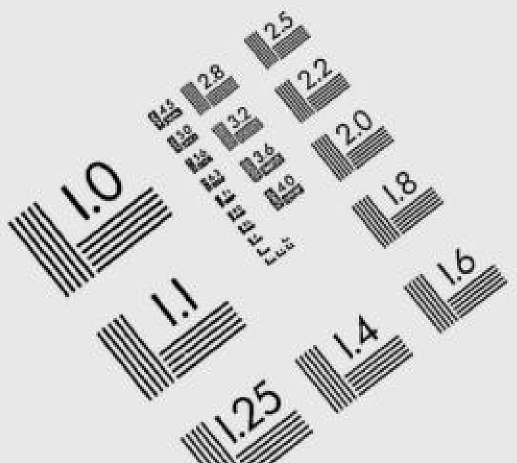

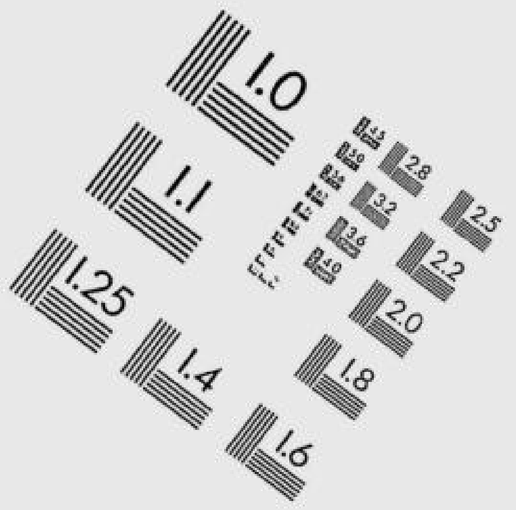

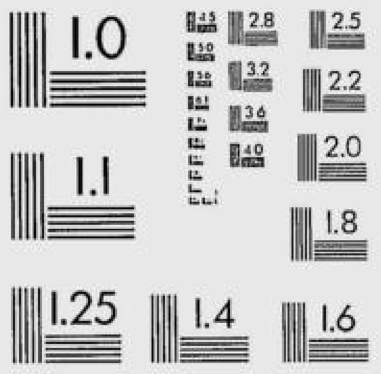

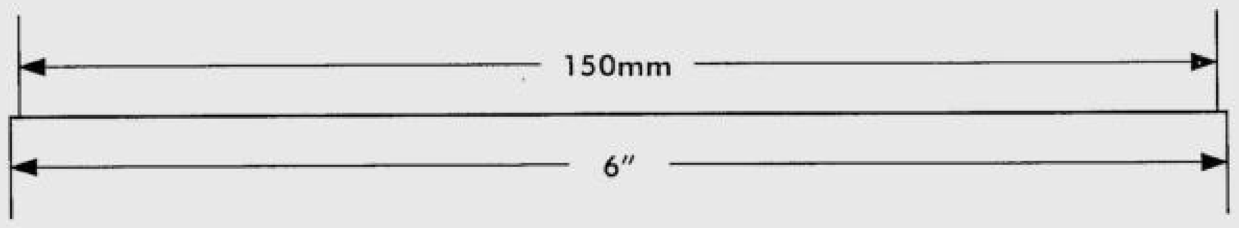

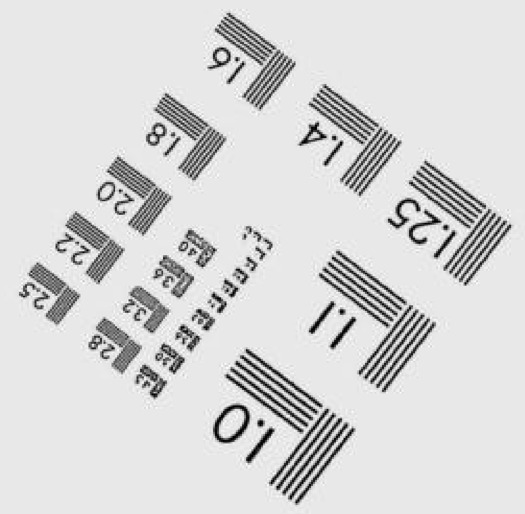

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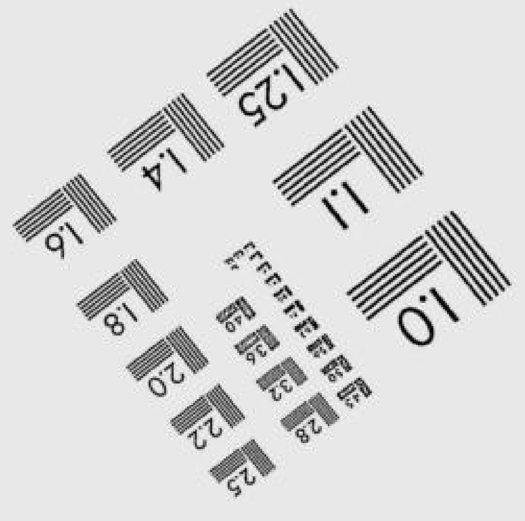

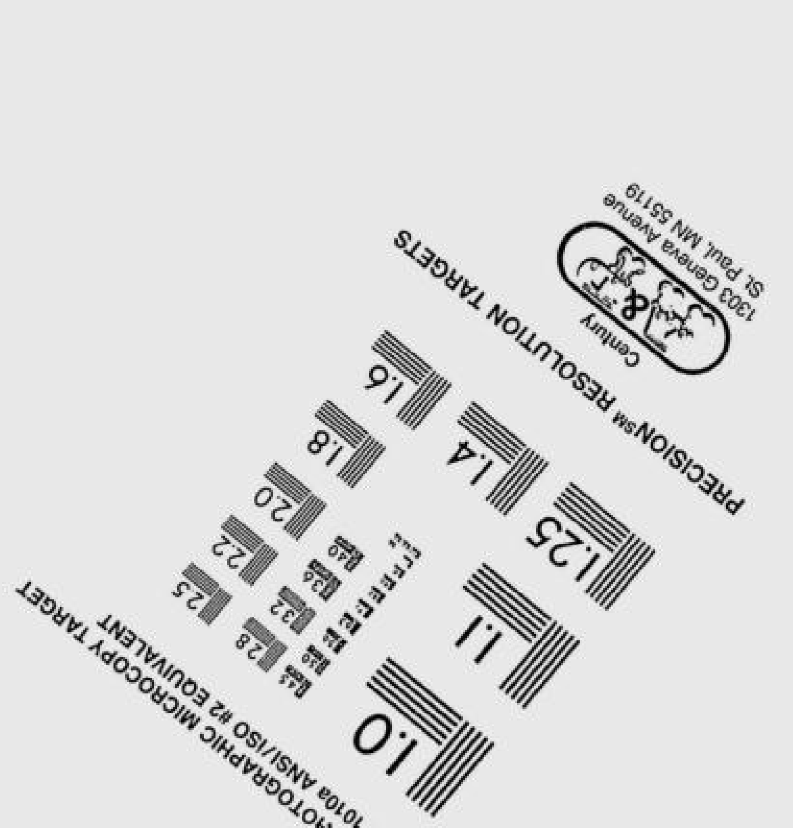
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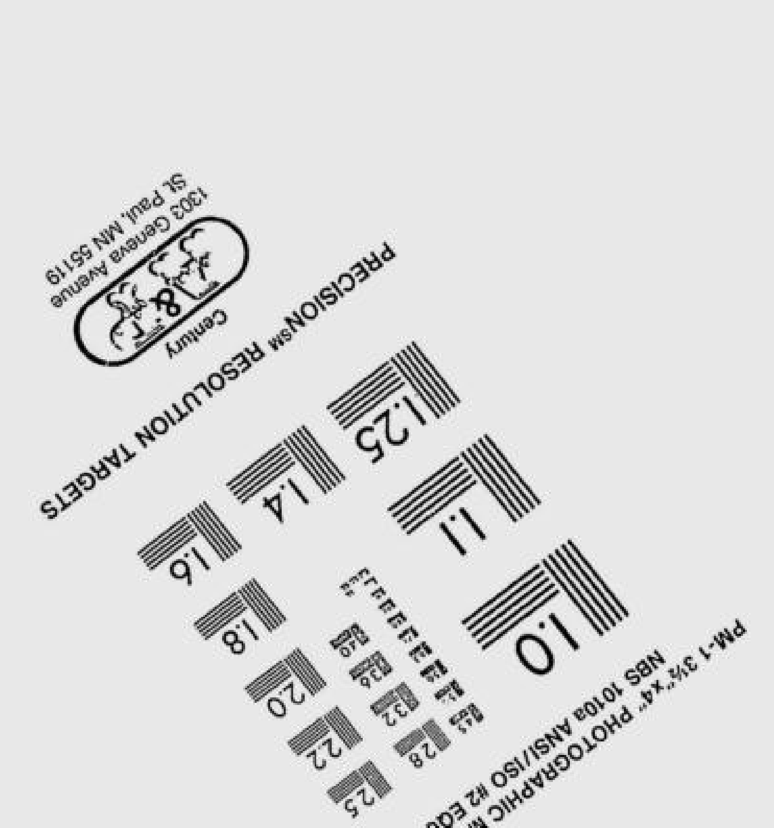
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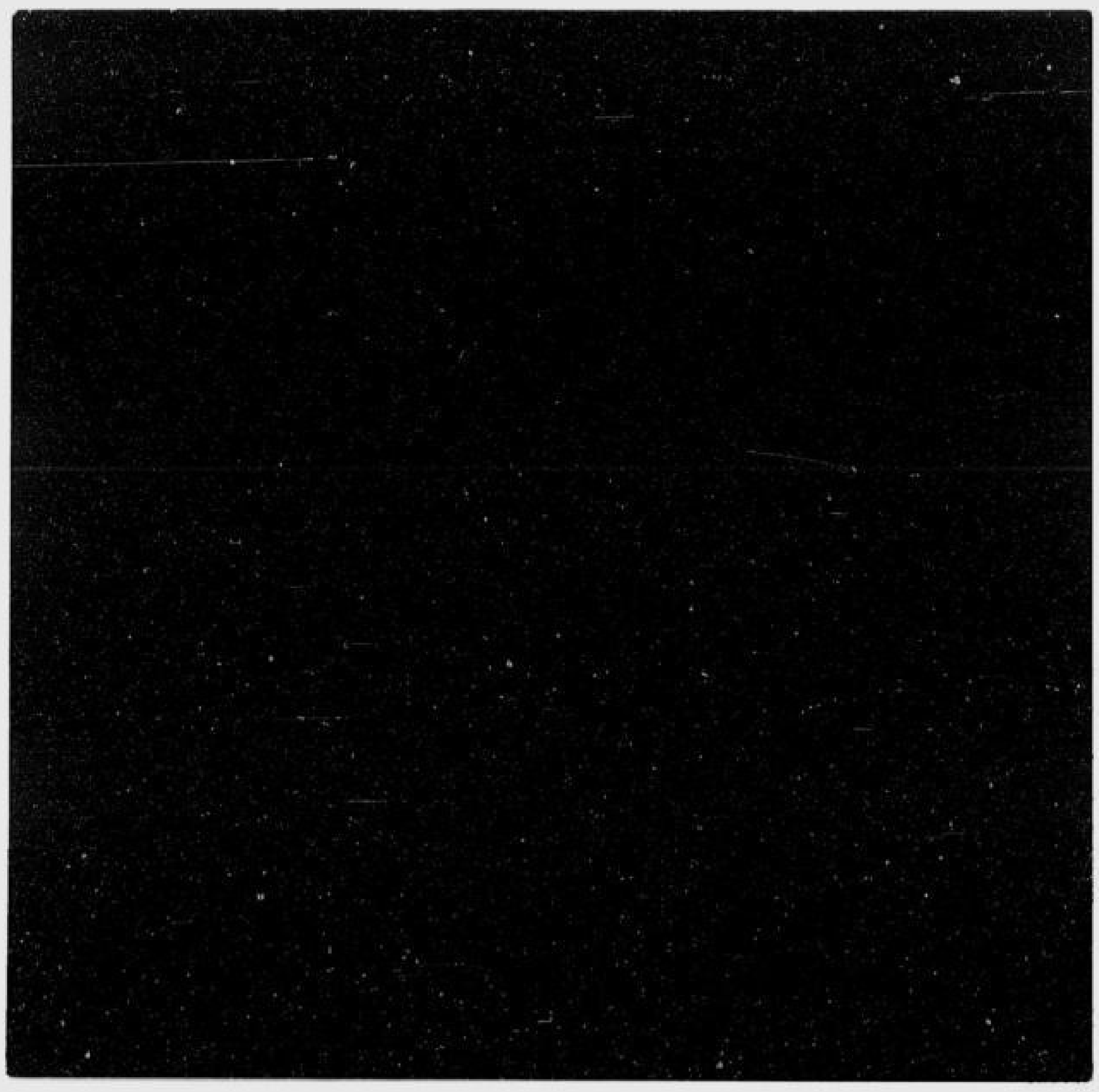

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